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RECOLLECTIONS
OF
GENERAL GRANT
BY
GEORGE W. CHILDS

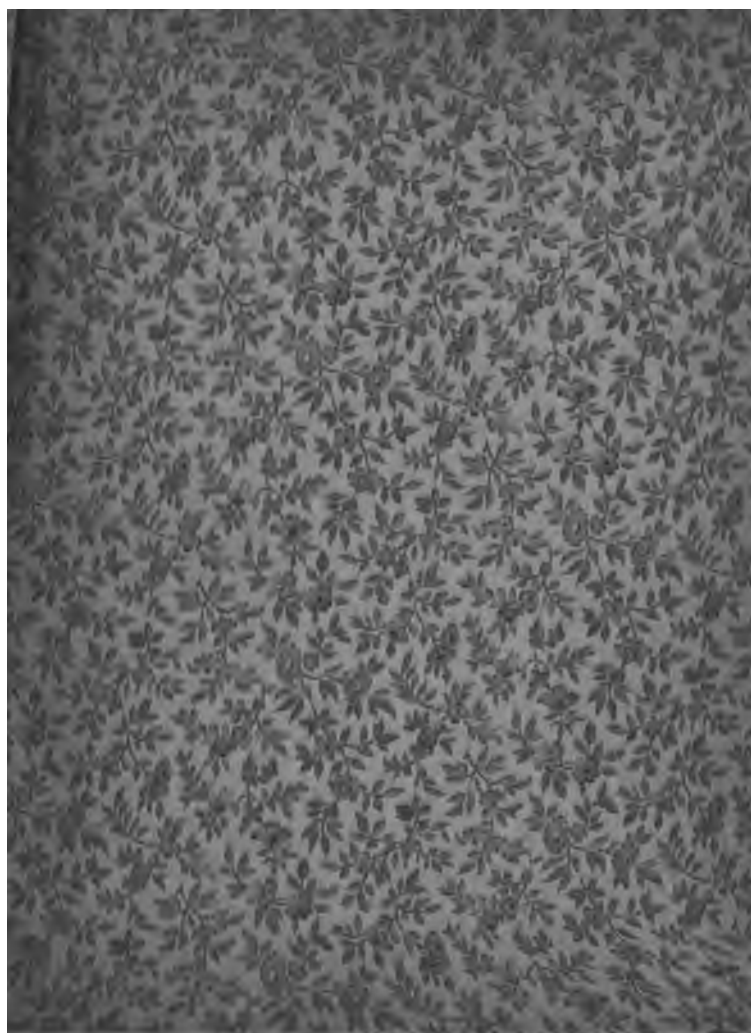
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RECOLLECTIONS
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GENERAL GRANT.

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OF THE PORTRAITS
OF
CENTRAL GRANT, SHERMAN, AND SHERIDAN.

BY
J. S. MILLER, CAPT. U. S. A.,
WEST POINT.

GEORGE W. CHILDS.

PHILADELPHIA:
COLLIER'S PRINTING HOUSE,
1890.



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RECOLLECTIONS

OF

GENERAL GRANT:

WITH AN

ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENTATION

OF THE PORTRAITS

OF

GENERALS GRANT, SHERMAN, AND SHERIDAN

AT THE

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY

WEST POINT.

BY

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1890.

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1918**

TO
MRS. JULIA DENT GRANT,
WHOSE DEVOTION AS A WIFE
WAS ONLY EQUALLED BY THE
AFFECTION OF HER ILLUSTRIOUS HUSBAND,
This Little Sketch
IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED
BY AN ARDENT AND ADMIRING FRIEND
OF
THEM BOTH,
GEORGE W. CHILDS.

PHILADELPHIA, February, 1890.



RECOLLECTIONS OF GENERAL GRANT.

GENERAL GRANT was one of the truest and most congenial friends I ever had. We first met in 1863, after the victory of Vicksburg. The General and Mrs. Grant had come to Philadelphia to make arrangements to put their children at school in Burlington, New Jersey. From that time until his death our intimacy grew. In his life three qualities were conspicuously revealed—justice, kindness, and firmness.

Seeing General Grant frequently for more than twenty years, I had abundant opportunity to notice these qualities. We lived at Long Branch on adjoining properties, on the same land, without any division, and I may say there never was a day when we were together there on which either I was not in his house or he in mine. He would often come over and breakfast or dine with me. I never saw him in the field, though I corresponded with him during the war, and whenever an opportunity presented itself he would come to Philadelphia for the purpose of seeing his family at Burlington, and would

often stay with me, and in that way he made a great many friends. That was as early as 1863. He always seemed to enjoy his visits here, as they gave him rest during the time he was in the army. These visits to Philadelphia were continued after he became President, and he always found recreation and pleasure in them.

Much has been published about General Grant, but there are many things I have not seen stated, and one is that he had considerable artistic taste and talent. He painted very well. One of his paintings, twelve by eighteen inches, he gave to his friend the late Hon. A. E. Borie, of Philadelphia, who was the Secretary of the Navy in his first Cabinet. That picture is, I believe, one of the two that he is known to have painted. On the death of Mr. Borie it was presented by his family to Mrs. Grant, and the engraving of it was made from the original sent to me for the purpose by Col. Fred. D. Grant. Of the other painting there is no trace. General Grant stood very high with his professor of drawing at West Point, and if he had persevered in that line might, it has always seemed to me, have made a good artist. He was throughout his cadetship apt in mathematics and drawing. The picture alluded to is that of an Indian chief, at a trading-post in the Northwest, exchanging skins and furs with *a group of traders and trappers*. The Indian

stands in the foreground and is the central object—a noble figure, well painted, and in full and characteristic costume. I have often seen the painting, which has been very much admired. The General took a good deal of pride in it himself.

General Grant was not an ardent student. Early in life he was somewhat of a novel-reader, but latterly he read history, biography, and travels. He was a careful reader, and remembered everything he read. He was a great reader of newspapers. I recall an incident which happened while we were at Long Branch, just after General Sherman's Memoirs had been published. Referring to the work, I asked him if he had read it. He said he had not had time to do so. One of the persons present observed, "Why, General, you won't find much in it about yourself. Sherman doesn't seem to think you were in the war." The General said, "I don't know; I have seen some adverse criticisms, but I am going to read it and judge the book for myself."

After he had perused the work carefully and attentively, I asked him what he thought of it. "Well," he said, "it has done me full justice. It has given me more credit than I deserve. Any criticism I might make would be that I think Sherman has not done justice to Logan, Blair, and other volunteer generals, whom he calls political generals.

These men did their duty faithfully, and I never believe in imputing motives to people."

General Sherman had sent to me the proof-sheets of that portion of the Memoirs relating to General Grant before the book was published, and asked if I had any suggestions to make, and if I thought he had been just to the General. I informed General Grant that I had read these proof-sheets, and that I thought, as he did, that General Sherman had done him full justice. General Grant had the highest opinion of General Sherman as a military man, and always entertained a great personal regard for him. He was always magnanimous, particularly to his army associates. He was a man who rarely used the pronoun *I* in conversation when speaking of his battles.

There is an amusing little incident I recall, *à propos* of a large painting of General Sherman on his "March to the Sea," which hangs in the hall of my Long Branch house, and which was painted by Kauffmann. Sherman sits in front of the tent, in a white shirt, without coat or vest. The picture shows a camp-fire in front, and the moonlight in the rear of the tents. The criticism of General Grant when he first saw it was, "That is all very fine; it looks like Sherman; but he never wore a boiled shirt there, I am sure."

While living at Long Branch few Confede-

rate officers who visited the place failed to call upon General Grant. He was always glad to see them, and he invariably talked over with them the incidents and results of the war. The General held in high estimation General Joseph E. Johnston, and always spoke of him as one of the very best of the Southern generals. At one of my dinners I had the pleasure of getting Johnston, Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan together.

With regard to election matters General Grant was a close observer, and had a wonderful judgment respecting results. One particular case may be cited. During the canvass of his second term (towards the latter part of it) there began to be doubts throughout the country of his election. Senator Wilson, who was then running on the ticket for Vice-President, and who was a man of the people and had had a good deal of experience in election matters for forty years, made an extensive tour through the country, and came to my house, just afterwards, very despondent. He went over the ground and said that the result was in a great deal of doubt. I hastened to see General Grant, and told him of this feeling, particularly as it impressed Senator Wilson. The General said nothing, but sent for a map of the United States. He laid the map on the table, went over it with a pencil, and said, "We will carry this State, that State, and that State."

until he nearly covered the whole United States. It occurred to me he might as well put them all in, and I ventured the remonstrance, "I think it would not be policy to talk that way; the election now is pretty near at hand." When the election came, the result was that Grant carried every State that he had said he would—a prediction made in the face of the feeling throughout the country that the Republican cause was growing weaker, and in spite of the fact that the candidate for Vice-President on the ticket with Grant, who was deeply interested in the election, had visited various parts of the country, South and West, and had come back apprehensive and dispirited.

This mention of Henry Wilson reminds me that when Lord Houghton (Richard Monckton Milnes) was my guest in Philadelphia, he asked me to show him a "typical American." I told him that Vice-President Wilson was the man he was seeking—that he illustrated most admirably, in his astonishing career from a shoemaker's bench to the presiding chair of the Senate, the possibilities of American citizenship. I sent for Mr. Wilson, and the two men spent some days together at my house. Shortly after, Wilson was stricken down with illness, and died in the room of the Vice-President in the Capitol building at Washington.

General Grant was staying with me in

Philadelphia at the time of the Tilden and Hayes campaign, and on the morning of the momentous day after the election, when the returns gave Tilden a majority of all the Electors, he accompanied me to my office. After a few moments an eminent Republican Senator and one or two other leading Republicans walked in, and they went over the returns. One of these leaders, notwithstanding the returns, said, "Hayes is elected," an opinion in which the others coincided. General Grant listened to them, but said nothing. After they had settled the matter in their own minds, he said, "Gentlemen, it looks to me as if Mr. Tilden is elected."

When the contention on this point took such bitter and angry form and excited so much hot blood, the more conservative and the wiser men in Congress, like Randall, Garfield, Abram S. Hewitt, and Kasson in the House, and Edmunds, Bayard, and Conkling in the Senate, seeing the necessity of adopting some quieting and reassuring measures, began to consider what ultimately took form in the Electoral Commission. About this time General Grant asked me to make him a visit. He had patriotically espoused the proposal for an amicable adjustment of the threatening dispute in any practical form, and warmly favored the idea of an Electoral Commission. When I got to the White

House, he said, "This matter is very complicated, and the people will not be satisfied unless something is done in regard to it which will appeal to their sense of justice. Now," he continued, "I have thought of an Electoral Commission, but the leaders of the party are opposed to it, which I am sorry to see. They say that if an Electoral Commission is appointed we might as well count in Mr. Tilden. I would rather have Mr. Tilden than that the Republicans should have a President who could be stigmatized as a fraud. If I were Mr. Hayes, I would not have the office unless my claim to it were settled in some way outside the Senate. This matter is opposed by the leading Republicans in the House and Senate and throughout the country."

President Grant invited several leading Republican Senators to dine with him to meet me and to get their views. He said to me, "You see the feeling here. I find them almost universally opposed to anything like an Electoral Commission." I named a leading Democrat in the House (Hon. Samuel J. Randall), who was one of the most prominent men in the country, a man of large influence and of great integrity of character, and whom it would be well to see. I sent for Mr. Randall to come to the White House to see me, and put the dilemma to *him, as follows*: "It is very hard for the

President and very embarrassing to men on his own side that this matter does not seem to find favor with them, besides having Democratic opposition. Republicans think they might as well count Tilden in as to agree to an Electoral Commission; but as the feeling throughout the country demands as honest a count of the vote as possible, this Electoral Commission ought to be appointed." There was every prospect that the great majority of the Democrats would ultimately support the measure, though chafing and angry under what they appeared to regard as a great wrong to them and to the country.

Mr. Randall was Speaker of the House at the time. His language in reply made it manifest that he felt it his duty to exert in all proper ways his powerful influence for a peaceful adjustment. He was careful in speech, for he evidently realized if an Electoral Commission was created by law that he, as presiding officer of the House of Representatives, would have to see, in part at least, that such law was faithfully carried out—a task which he executed with firmness amid an excited assembly.

General Grant, however, did send for Senator Conkling, and said, with deep earnestness, "This matter is a serious one, and the people feel it very deeply. I think this Electoral Commission ought to be ap-

pointed." Conkling answered, "Mr. President, Senator Morton" (who was then the acknowledged leader of the Senate) "is opposed to it and opposed to your efforts; but if you wish the Commission carried, I can help to do it." Grant said, "I wish it done." Thereupon Mr. Conkling took hold of the measure and contributed his powerful aid in putting it through the Senate.

Few persons not in public life understood fully at the time how near the country was to another Civil War, and of course had no adequate appreciation of the vital service done by the statesmen named above, and by those of both parties who patriotically stood up in their support. But the peril was imminent, and the people of the country owe to all of them a great debt of gratitude—and especially to Messrs. Randall, Edmunds, Conkling, and General Grant.

General Patterson, of Philadelphia, who had been an intimate friend of President Jackson, and a life-long Democrat, was also sent for at that time by President Grant. General Patterson had large estates in the South, and a great deal of influence with the Democrats, and particularly with Southern Democrats. He was then upwards of eighty, but he went to Washington and remained one or two weeks with President Grant, working hard to accomplish the purpose in view. After the bill had passed and while it

was awaiting his signature, General Grant went to a State Fair in Maryland upon the day it should have been signed, and there was much perturbation about it. I was telegraphed by those interested that General Grant was absent, and that they were anxious about the signing. I replied they might consider the bill as good as signed. The President returned to Washington that night and put his name to the document.

Just before General Grant started on his journey around the world he was spending some days with me, and at dinner with Mr. A. J. Drexel, Colonel A. K. McClure, and myself, he reviewed the contest over the creation of the Electoral Commission very fully and with rare candor. The chief significance of his view lay in the fact, as he stated it, that he expected from the beginning until the final judgment that the electoral vote of Louisiana would be awarded to Tilden. He spoke of South Carolina and Oregon as justly belonging to Hayes, of Florida as reasonably doubtful, and of Louisiana as for Tilden.

General Grant acted in good faith throughout the whole affair. It has been said that the changing of the complexion of the court threw the office into Hayes's hands, and that if the court had remained as it was, Tilden would have been declared President.

General Grant was the soul of honor in this matter, and no one ever hinted that he was

unfair or untruthful in any way. I, for one, do not believe that he could possibly tell a lie or act deceitfully.

There is another point in politics not generally known. General Garfield, during his canvass, became very much demoralized. He was fearful that the Republicans would not carry Indiana, and was doubtful whether they would carry Ohio. In that emergency urgent appeals were made to General Grant, and he at once threw himself into the breach. He saw his strong personal friends and told them they must help. There was one very influential man, Senator Conkling, whom General Grant sent for and informed that he must turn in and assist. He at first declined, being hard pressed with professional engagements, but at General Grant's urgent solicitation finally entered the field and contributed handsomely to the victory. In order to do so, he was compelled to return to clients \$17,500, which had been paid him as retaining fees in cases to be tried in October during his absence. General Grant went into the canvass with might and main. The tide was turned, and it was through General Grant's individual efforts, seconded by those of his strong personal friends, who did not feel any particular interest in the election, that Garfield was successful.

General Grant never by word or by letter

suggested to any one that he would like to be nominated for a third term. Neither Mr. Conkling nor General Logan nor Senator Cameron had any assurance from him in any way that he wished the nomination, and they proceeded in their contest for it without any authority from him whatever. His heart was not on a third term at all. He had had enough of politics. After his second term he told me, "I feel like a boy out of school." At first General Grant intended to decline. In conversation with me he said, "It is very difficult to decline a thing which has never been offered;" and before he left this country for the West Indies, I said, "General, you leave this matter in the hands of your friends." He knew I was opposed to a third term. His political friends, however, were in favor of it, not merely as friends, but because they thought he was the only man who could be elected by the Republicans. There is not a line of his in existence in which he expresses any desire to have that nomination. Towards the last, when the canvass became very hot, I suppose his natural feeling was that he would like to win. But he never laid any plans. He never encouraged or abetted anything looking towards a third-term movement.

General Grant was very magnanimous to those who differed with him, and when I asked him what distressed him most in his

political life he said, "To be deceived by those I trusted." *He had a great many distresses.*

Of his quick perception in financial matters I remember a striking instance. On one of the great financial questions—the Inflation Bill, pending before Congress—he was consulting with Mr. A. J. Drexel, of Philadelphia, whom he regarded as one of his strongest personal friends. In September, 1873, the General had gone to New York, and had listened for a day to appeals from inflationists to expand the currency by issuing the forty-four millions of greenbacks then in the Treasury. He patiently heard their arguments, but refused their request. Still, he was so strongly impressed with certain views held by many of the ablest men in the country who had opinions on the subject different from his own, that he stated them to Mr. Drexel. Mr. Drexel combated these opinions, and as the result of that discussion the General adopted his views; and when the measure to which I allude was laid before him, he returned it to Congress with his disapproval. Here was a subject he had considered, as he thought, fully, but when new light was given to him by Mr. Drexel, whom he knew to be a well-informed, conservative, unselfish, and reliable man, and an experienced and able financier, and who possessed the public confidence, he changed his

opinions, and wrote the veto message of April 22, 1874. Congratulations immediately poured in upon him from all parts of the country, and even the strongest advocates of the bill acknowledged that the President's final judgment was right, and that in this matter especially he was immeasurably superior in statesmanship to the Congressional majority.

A great many people had an idea that General Grant was very much set in his opinions; but, while he had decided opinions, at the same time he was always open to conviction. Very often in talking with him he would make no observation, and when one had got through it would be difficult to tell exactly whether he had grasped the subject or not, but in a very short time, if the matter was alluded to again, it would be found that he had comprehended it thoroughly. His power of observation and mental assimilation was remarkable.

Of his simplicity and unpretentiousness I will give an illustration. During one of his drives with me through Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, I called his attention to the little log cabin which we were passing on one of the main avenues, and which was his headquarters during the war. With a merry twinkle of his eye he said: "I can tell you a little story connected with that cabin. For a long time my officers were urging

me to let them put up a building for my headquarters. My headquarters had previously been on the field and in the saddle, and I had never thought of any other. I began to suspect that their solicitude for my comfort was not altogether disinterested, and told them they might put up a small affair. Almost instantly, as if by magic, headquarters grew up in every direction. So it turned out that they were partly thinking of their own comfort." There was no "nonsense" about him. He was always neat in dress, but not fastidious. He said he got cured of his pride in regimentals when he came home from West Point.

There was a slight tinge of superstition in his composition. I remember hearing him say that he never would turn back if he could possibly avoid it, and he illustrated the remark by telling me of an incident that occurred when he was a boy living in the country. He had started on horseback to go to the mill, and while musing he had passed the road that led to it; instead of retracing his steps, he drove a long distance around, so that he could reach the mill without going back. Was not this trait one of the secrets of his success in the war? When I spoke to my old friend, Paul Du Chaillu, in regard to this peculiarity of General Grant, he replied that it was an old superstition, and that he could trace it to the Vikings of the

ninth and tenth centuries, many of their great warriors believing in it.

General Grant, surrounded by those he knew well, always did two-thirds of the talking. He was a reticent and diffident man in general company, and it was not until he was out of the Presidency that he became a public speaker. He told a story that he was once notified that he was expected to make a speech in reply to a sentiment given him, and he looked it over and wrote his answer carefully, but when he got up he was stricken dumb. He utterly lost himself, and could not say a word. After that he did not want to hear what was going to be said, and never prepared anything. Hon. Levi P. Morton told me that, in going to Liverpool and Manchester with General Grant, a committee came down to meet the General and brought a report of what they intended to say, for his inspection. He said, "No, I have had one experience in that line. I don't want to see it." The Hon. Robert C. Winthrop writes to me: "What you say of his early reticence reminds me that I had to make two speeches for him in the early days of the Peabody Education Trust. One of them was in the Tobacco Factory at Baltimore, and the other on my door-steps here at Brookline, when our village band came up to serenade him. He would not go to the door unless I would

promise to acknowledge the compliment for him."

The last speech he ever made was at Ocean Grove. Governor Oglesby, of Illinois, was staying with him at his cottage at Long Branch. George H. Stuart, who was one of his earliest and dearest friends, came up to ask him if he would go down to Ocean Grove. Prior to this invitation he had not appeared in public since his misfortunes. He was then lame, from a fall on the ice as he was leaving his carriage at his residence in New York on Christmas eve, and was compelled to use crutches until his death. Upon reaching Ocean Grove he found ten thousand people assembled. They rose *en masse* and cheered with a vigor and unanimity very uncommon in a religious assemblage. This touched him profoundly, for it was evidence that the popular heart was still with him. He arose to make acknowledgment, but after saying a few words he utterly broke down, and the tears trickled down his cheeks. That was the last time he ever appeared in public.

Speaking of Ocean Grove, General Grant always evinced great interest in its progress and success, and often took part in the religious exercises there. While at Long Branch he and his family attended the Methodist church in the village, and since his death a *large* memorial window of stained glass has

been placed in the chancel. He sometimes went to the Episcopal chapel at Elberon, in which a brass memorial tablet has been placed. It bears the following inscription, prepared, at my request, by the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop :

IN MEMORY OF
The Virtues and Valor
of
ULYSSES S. GRANT,
General of the Union Army,
and
President of the United States.
Born 27th April, 1822.
Died 23d July, 1885.

A few of his friends erect this tablet, as a token of their affection, while the whole country does homage to his career and character.

I remember that in 1834 I was notified that a number of scientists would meet in Montreal from all parts of the world to attend a convention. Sir William Thomson, Lord Rayleigh, and others, who were to be my guests, asked whether I would present them to General Grant. Some of them had met him. Of course I was very glad to introduce them. I said to him in the morning, "General, the scientists from Canada are coming down here, and they are very anxious to pay their respects to you." "Oh," he replied, "I have met some of these people abroad : I will be very glad to see them."

They came to my house, and we walked across the lawn to the General's. He sat on the piazza, not being able to stand alone without the use of crutches, and was presented to every one of them, shaking hands with each. He would say to one gentleman, "How are you, professor? I met you in Liverpool;" and to another, "Why, how are you? I met you in London;" and, "I am glad to see you; I met you in Manchester." So he recognized each of these visitors as soon as he laid eyes on him. Many of them said to me afterwards, in speaking of the incident, "Why, I only met him casually with a party of people."

This power of recognition was remarkable. I subsequently asked him whether he had lost the power; he answered, "No, I have not lost the power. If I fix my mind on a person, I never forget him; but I see so many that I don't always do it." I can give a remarkable instance of his memory of persons. During one of the times that he was staying with me in Philadelphia we were walking down Chestnut Street together, and just as we arrived in front of a large jeweller's establishment a lady came out of the store and was about to enter her carriage. General Grant walked up to her, shook hands with her, and put her in the carriage. "General, did you know that lady?" "Oh, yes," he replied; "I know her." "Where did you

see her?" "Well, I saw her a good many years ago out in Ohio at a boarding-school. She was one of the girls there." "Did you never see her before or since?" He said, "No." The lady was the daughter of a very prominent Ohio man, Judge Jewett, and the next time we met she said, "I suppose you told General Grant who I was." I replied, "I did not." "Why, that is very remarkable," she answered, in a tone of surprise; "I was one of two or three hundred girls, and only saw him at school. I have never seen him since."

I remember an amusing incident which occurred when the English banker Mr. Hope, with his wife and three children, was visiting me at Long Branch. The children wanted to see the General, so one day they were taken over and presented to him. When they came back and were asked whether they had seen him, one of them replied, in a rather disappointed tone, "Yes; but he had no *crown*."

During one of his visits at Wootton, my country-seat, he planted, on Oct. 16, 1892, an oak, and always held it in remembrance. Just before his death he asked me if the tree was flourishing. One day when we were at Wootton together he remarked what a beautiful place it was, adding that it seemed a pity to him that its beauty should be spoiled by bad roads. Acting on this hint, the roads

round about the neighborhood were Telforded.

General Grant was very fond of horses, and was a thorough horseman. While a cadet at West Point he was always called upon whenever a horse was unmanageable, and he never failed to subdue the most vicious or fractious animal. In early life he rode a great deal, but after he left the army he generally drove a pair of spirited horses ; sometimes, when he had a favorite fast horse, he drove singly. With all his liking for horses, he could never be induced to attend a race, or to bet on a horse. At agricultural fairs of course he witnessed and enjoyed seeing horses trotting or running. The last horse General Grant owned and drove was the mare "Silver," now twenty years old and in good condition. I have her at Wootton, with her two colts, Julia and Ida, sired by "Kentucky Prince," the horse for which fifty thousand dollars were offered. On his sick-bed the General longed to see them.

As to General Grant's power of thinking and of expressing his thoughts, he wrote with great facility and clearness. His Centennial Address, at the opening of the Exhibition in 1876, was prepared at my house, and there were only two or three corrections in the whole manuscript. Soon after his arrival in England he wrote me a letter of *fourteen* pages, giving an account of his re-

ception in that country. The same post that brought the letter contained another from Mr. John Walter, proprietor of the London Times, saying that he had seen our mutual friend General Grant on several occasions, and wondered how he was pleased with his reception in England. The letter which I had received was so *à propos* that I telegraphed it over that very day to the London Times,—fourteen pages of manuscript,—without one word of alteration, and that journal next morning published this letter, with an editorial on it. It happened that the cablegram arrived in London the very night the General was going through the London Times office to view the establishment. In the letter he said he thought the English people admirable, and he was deeply sensible of the unexpected attention and kindness shown him. The letter contained these lines: “It has always been my desire to see all jealousy between England and the United States abated, and all sores healed up. Together they are more powerful for the spread of commerce and civilization than all others combined, and can do more to remove the cause of wars by creating mutual interests that would be so much disturbed by war, than all other nations.” The letter was written privately to me, he not supposing that it would ever be put in print, and not one word, as I have said,

had to be altered. I cite this to show General Grant's facility in writing.

The necessity of earning some money induced him to write the series of admirable articles for the "Century Magazine." Upon their appearance I urged him, as did other friends of his, to expand them into a symmetrical and continuous narrative. Thus, had it not been for his financial reverses, it is doubtful whether American literature would have been enriched with his "Personal Memoirs," a book of surpassing interest, which has enjoyed the largest circulation and yielded the largest copyright (over \$415,000) of any work issued in modern times. Just before his death the General requested Mrs. Grant to send me his "Memoirs," and as soon as the work was published Col. Grant sent me a handsomely bound copy with a very kind note.

The man who was perhaps nearer to him than any other in his Cabinet was Hon. Hamilton Fish. Grant had the greatest regard for his judgment. It was more than friendship—it was genuine affection which existed between them, and General Grant always appreciated Mr. Fish's remaining in his Cabinet, because Mr. Fish, had he been governed by his personal interests, would not have done so. I know that it was General Grant's desire to have him his successor in the *Presidency*. Mrs. Fish's influence and example

were very great in Washington, and she left an impress on society there which is felt to this day. She was a typical American woman. A strong friendship existed between Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Fish, and their united kind acts, and many good deeds, will be long remembered in Washington.

When, in 1865, after the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox, General Grant went to Washington to superintend the disbandment of the army, he found the national capital, as it always had been, a city of magnificent distances. Its long, broad avenues and streets seemed by their rough condition to increase and render more conspicuous these distances. The tramp of cavalry, the almost continuous movement of trains of heavy artillery and ammunition and baggage-wagons, had, assisted by the recurring winters' alternate freezings and thawings, reduced them to a condition little better than that of the rough, rude trails left by the Army of the Potomac on its march upon the Confederate capital.

They were still in this neglected state in 1868 when General Grant was elected President, and when, in the following year, he was inaugurated, he manifested the strongest public interest in designs for their improvement, and spoke to me very strongly on the subject. Indeed, it may justly be said, that the concern he evinced regarding the noble avenues and spacious streets of Washington

was the inspiring cause which eventually led to their improvement. The subject was an engrossing one to him, and he made it the frequent theme of his conversation. General Grant's far-seeing wisdom was conspicuously demonstrated in this matter. He maintained that the national capital should, and under favorable conditions would, become the Winter Saratoga—the social centre—of the entire country. He felt so strongly, and spoke with such earnestness regarding the necessity of improving the city as to finally impress the importance of it upon the minds of those who had the authority to give practical realization to his suggestions.

Inspired by his public spirit and the interest he showed in its consummation, the work of improvement was begun, and when it was finished, upon the intelligent, generous plan which was adopted, the avenues and streets which had been as country roads, ploughed into deep ruts by artillery, and roughened by the action of innumerable frosts and suns, were so well graded and paved as to vie with those of the noblest highways of Old World capitals. Washington is still a city of magnificent distances, but so great and many were the improvements made during President Grant's administration as to suggest not so much distance as magnificence, for as its noble highways were extended, broadened, made smooth and pleasant to the sight, noble *mansions* were built upon them, and General

Grant's prediction of the capital becoming the winter social centre of the country was realized. The imposing improvements which were made, and which were largely inspired by him, render Washington a particularly attractive city to which the representatives of the nation's wealth and refinement are drawn. There was nothing more characteristic of General Grant than his public spirit which was so strongly displayed in the transformation from inconvenience and ugliness to comfort and beauty of the avenues and streets of Washington.

With regard to the treatment of the Indians, he informed me that, as a young lieutenant, he had been thrown among them, and had seen the unjust treatment they received at the hands of the white men. He then made up his mind that if he ever had any influence or power it should be exercised to try to ameliorate their condition. The Indian Commission was his own idea. He wished to appoint the very best men in the United States. He selected William Welsh, of Philadelphia, William E. Dodge, of New York, Felix Brunot, of Pittsburgh, Colonel Robert Campbell, of St. Louis, and George H. Stuart, of Philadelphia. They composed the Indian Commission which he had worked hard to establish, and they always could count upon him to aid them in every possible way. He always took the greatest

interest in the Commission. Even to his last moments he attentively watched its progress. It was, at all times, a very difficult affair to handle, especially as there was a powerful Indian ring to break up.

He was of a very kindly nature, generous to a fault. I would often remonstrate with him, and say, "General, you can't afford to do this," and would try to keep people away from him. On one occasion, when certain persons wanted him to contribute to an important matter, which I did not think he was able to do, I would not let them go near him. He was reached, however, by some injudicious person, and he subscribed a thousand dollars.

General Grant venerated his mother, and loved his family. He seemed happiest in his home circle, surrounded by his devoted and loving wife and his children and grandchildren. I have never seen an instance of greater domestic happiness than that which existed in the Grant family. Perfect love had indeed "cast out fear," and it was delightful to see his grandchildren romping with him, and saying just what came uppermost in their thoughts in their childish innocence.

General Grant always felt that he had been badly treated by General Halleck, but he rarely spoke harshly of any one. During one of my last visits to him he showed *me his army orders*, which he had kept in

books. He had a copy of everything he ever did or said in regard to army matters. He was very careful about that, and had written all the orders with his own hand. He pointed to one of this large series of books, and said that it was fortunate that he had kept these things, because several of the orders could not be found on any record in the War Department. During our long friendship I never heard him more than two or three times speak unkindly of Halleck, although he had been very unjustly treated by him—as is borne out by the records.

I told him of something that I had learned in connection with the officer in charge of the war records at Washington. That officer had been a strong friend of Halleck, and was prejudiced against General Grant, and was in the office where all these things passed through his hands. But after twenty years of examination, he said that there was not a line relating to Grant which would not elevate him in the minds of thinking people.

It was through me that General Grant first went to Long Branch. He always enjoyed being there, and said that he had never seen a place in all his travels which was better suited for a summer residence. He drove out twice a day, and knew every by-way within twenty miles. It was his habit to drive out every morning after breakfast for a long distance, and then he would come home and read the

papers or any books he might have on hand. He was one of the most companionable of men; totally unspoiled by all the honors conferred upon him. He was simple, unaffected, and attached everybody to him. He was very careful in answering his correspondence. Most of the letters received were begging letters of some kind or other, and I remember an incident showing his justness and tenderness of heart.

Once he had two cases of petition. He said, "I did a thing to-day that gave me great pleasure. There was a poor Irish-woman who had a boy in the army, and she came down from New York and spent all her money. She had lost several of her boys in the war, and this one she wished to get out of the service to help support her. I gave her an order, and was very glad to do it." But he did not add that he gave her also some money, which was the case. "In contrast to that there was a lady of a very distinguished family of New York, who came here and wanted me to remove her son from Texas. He was an officer in the army, and I told her I could not do that. My rich petitioner then said, 'Well, could you not remove his regiment?' This would have involved a cost of over one hundred thousand dollars." General Grant did not hesitate a moment to refuse a rich woman's unreasonable request, but it

gave him pleasure to grant the petition of a poor friendless Irishwoman.

He was very kind to the poor, and, in fact, to everybody, especially to widows and children of army officers. I gave him the names of quite a number of army and navy officers' sons for appointment in the navy or army. He said, "I am glad to have these. I like to appoint army and navy men's children, because they have no political influence." Nearly all his appointments to the Military and Naval Academies were the children of deceased army or navy officers, young men without influence to get in at West Point or Annapolis. There was hardly an army man, Confederate or Union, who was not a friend of General Grant.

For General Sheridan he had an affectionate regard, and I have often heard him say that he thought Sheridan the greatest fighter that ever lived, and if there should be another war he would be the leader. I knew that General Sheridan had carefully preserved all the letters he had received from General Grant; and I asked Mrs. Sheridan to let me have them arranged and bound for her, which she did. They make a volume of great historical value and interest.

General Grant was so just that he never excited the jealousy or enmity of army men. When mistaken there was no man more ready to acknowledge himself in error. He was

always accessible and courteous. He showed great tenacity in sticking to friends longer than he ought to have done. Whenever I spoke to him about this he would answer, "Well, if I believed all I hear, I would believe nearly everybody was bad." General Grant would say there was hardly anybody who came in contact with him who was not traduced, and that he very often had to depend upon his own judgment in such cases. One of his expressions was, "Never desert a friend under fire."

He rarely alluded to those who had abused his confidence, even in conversation with his most intimate friends. No matter how much a man had injured him, he was wont to say that he felt at the end what he might have felt at the outset.

General Grant had the greatest admiration for General Joseph E. Johnston, and Johnston for him ; and when it was first proposed to bring up the retiring bill, Johnston, who was then in Congress, was to take the initiative in the matter. The passage of that bill gave great gratification to the General. It happened to be with him on the 4th of March, and said, "General, that bill of yours will pass to-day." "Mr. Childs," he said, "you know that during the last day of a session everything is in a turmoil. Such a bill cannot possibly be passed." "Well," I said, "Mr. *Randall* assured me that measure would

be passed." He answered, "If anybody in the world could pass that bill, I think Mr. Randall could. But I don't think it is at all likely, and I have given up all expectation." While I was talking (this was about 11.30 A.M.), I got a telegram from Mr. A. J. Drexel, saying that the bill had passed, and the General seemed exceedingly gratified.

I remarked, "General, the part that some of the members took in the matter was not justified." "Oh, perhaps they thought they were right. I have no feeling at all: I am only grateful that the measure has been passed," he answered. Mrs. Grant came in, and I said, "We have got good news; the bill is passed." She cried out, "Hurrah! our old Commander is back." In answer to a remark that it would be very good if it could be dated from the time of going out, he said, "Oh, no: the law is to date from the time one accepts. In the early part of the war I saw in the newspapers that I was appointed to a higher rank, and wrote on at once and accepted on the strength of the newspaper report. In about two months' time, through red tape, I got my appointment, but received my pay from the time I wrote accepting the newspaper announcement. I saved a month's pay by that."

As to General Fitz-John Porter's case, I spoke to him during the early stage of it, at a time when his mind had been prejudiced

by persons around him, and when he was very busy. Afterwards, when he looked into the matter, he said he was sorry that he had so long delayed making the examination he should have made. He felt that if ever a man had been treated badly Porter was. He had examined the case most carefully, gone over every detail, and was perfectly satisfied that Porter was right. He wanted to do everything in his power to have him righted, and his only regret was that he had neglected the case so long and allowed Porter to rest under injustice. I had General Porter to meet General Grant at dinner, and placed them together, so that they could talk over the matter for the first time.

There are few men who would have taken a back track as General Grant did so publicly, so determinedly, and so consistently right through. I had several talks with him in regard to General Porter, and he was continually reiterating his regrets that he had not done justice to him when he had the opportunity. He ran counter to a great many of his political friends in this matter, but his mind was absolutely clear about it. Not one man in a thousand would go back on his record in such an affair, especially when he was not in accord with the Grand Army or his strong political friends. General Grant went into the question most carefully, and *his* publications show how thoroughly he

examined the subject, and he never wavered after his mind was settled. Then he set to work to repair the injury done Porter. If General Grant had had time to examine the case while he was President he would have carried through a measure for the relief of Porter. That he had not done so was his great regret. He felt that while he had power he could have passed it and ought to have done so. When General Grant took pains and time to look into a subject, no amount of personal feeling or friendship for others would keep him from doing the right thing. He could not be swerved from the right in any case.

Another marked trait of his character was his purity in every way. I never heard him express an impure thought or make an indelicate allusion. There is nothing I ever heard him say that could not be repeated in the presence of women. He never used profane language. He was very temperate in eating and drinking. In his own family, unless guests were present, he seldom drank wine. If while he was President a man were urged for an appointment, and it was shown that he was an immoral man, he would not appoint him, no matter how great the pressure brought to bear by friends.

He had no fondness for music, nor could he remember a tune or note, with perhaps the single exception of "Hail to the Chief,"

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which he had heard so often during and after the war. His old friend, Hon. Hamilton Fish, writes to me: "I do not think that the General knew 'Hail to the Chief;' he did know, or *thought* that he knew, 'Yankee Doodle.'" My friend, Mr. Robert C. Winthrop, says in a recent letter: "Your allusion to his insensibility to music, and to the saying of Governor Fish, recalls General Grant's remark to me, when I was sitting next to him at a concert in Baltimore at the Peabody Institute: 'Why, Mr. Winthrop, I only know two tunes. One is Yankee Doodle, and the other *isn't*.'" "

General Grant was robust, blessed with general good health, and great powers of endurance. He was a small eater, and could sleep more or less at any time, or could do without sleep and food, for a long period, without inconvenience. He never ate anything rare; everything had to be thoroughly cooked. Sometime after the war he told me that he thought he was failing physically. I asked him why? He answered by saying he could no longer do without eating or sleeping for forty-eight hours without feeling it. During the war he often passed two days and nights without tasting food or lying down to sleep.

General Grant would sit in my library with four or five others chatting freely, and doing perhaps two-thirds of the talking.

Let a stranger enter whom he did not know, and he would say nothing more while the stranger remained. That was one peculiarity of his. He wouldn't talk to people unless he understood them. He possessed a great deal of quiet humor, was an excellent story-teller, was full of anecdote, and enjoyed a good joke. He was always refined, and would not tolerate coarseness in others. At a dinner-party among intimate friends he would lead in the conversation, but any alien element would seal his tongue. This great shyness or reticence sometimes caused him to be misunderstood.

When his attention was first directed to his fatal disease, he told me that he had a dryness in his throat, which seemed to trouble him, and that whenever he ate a peach, a fruit of which he was very fond, he always suffered pain. I said that Dr. Da Costa, of Philadelphia, one of the most eminent physicians of the country, was coming to Long Branch to spend a few days with me; that he was an old friend; and that he would be glad to look into the matter. Dr. Da Costa, on arriving, went over with me to the General's house, examined his throat carefully, gave a prescription, and asked the General who his family physician was. He replied, Dr. Fordyce Barker, of New York, and he was advised to see him at once. I could see that the General was suffering a good deal, though

he was uncomplaining. During the summer he several times asked me if I had seen Dr. Da Costa, and seemed anxious to know exactly what was the matter with him. Dr. Da Costa knew at once the disease was cancer, and when Dr. Barker came to confer with him in regard to General Grant he so told him. General Grant, after he got worse, said to me, "I want to go to Philadelphia and stay a few days with you, and have a talk with Dr. Da Costa." He was not afraid of the disease after he knew all about it, and the last time I saw him, just before he went to Mount McGregor, he said, "Now, Mr. Childs, I have been twice within half a minute of death. I realize it fully, and my life was only preserved by the skill and attention of my physicians. I have told them the next time to let me go."

The General had great will-power, and the determination to finish his book kept him up. He quickly made up his mind that his disease would prove fatal, but he was resolute to live until his work was done. He said, "If I had been an ordinary man, I would have been dead long ago."

In good health General Grant would smoke a dozen very large, strong cigars a day; but he could stop smoking at any time. He told me that towards the latter part of the summer of 1884 he was smoking *fewer and milder* cigars, perhaps two or

three a day. In February of 1885 he expected to pay me a visit. He wrote, saying, "The doctor will not allow me to leave until the weather gets warmer. I am now quite well in every way, except a swelling of the tongue above the root, and the same thing in the tonsils just over it. It is very difficult for me to swallow enough to maintain my strength, and nothing gives me so much pain as to swallow water." I asked him about that, and he said, "If you could imagine what molten lead would be going down your throat, that is what I feel when I am swallowing." In that letter he further said, "I have not smoked a cigar since about the 20th of November; for a day or two I felt as though I would like to smoke, but after that I never thought of it."

General Grant always retained a warm interest in West Point, and favored it greatly while President. He left a written memorandum requesting that his grandson Ulysses Grant, son of Colonel Fred. D. Grant, should be educated at West Point, provided he could secure an appointment to enter the Academy as a cadet. Speaking on one or two occasions of the burial of soldiers, he observed that his old chief, General Scott, was buried at West Point, and that he would like to be buried there also. This was some years before his death, and mentioned merely in casual conversation. I think it might have

been alluded to incidentally once or twice afterwards.

His wishes in regard to his final resting-place may be gathered from the subjoined interesting correspondence taken from the New York World of September 29, 1889.

"The World has received the following letter from Col. Frederick D. Grant, United States Minister to Austria, relative to recent suggestions that the body of his father be removed from Riverside Park. It will be read with great interest by all the friends of the great General, and gives new and pathetic facts concerning General Grant's wishes as to his burial-place :—

"U. S. LEGATION, VIENNA, AUSTRIA,
September 13, 1889.

"To the Editor of The World :

"Two evenings ago I received your message by cable, which was as follows :—

"Press agitating question of removing General Grant's remains to Washington or Illinois. What is the sentiment of the widow and family ? THE WORLD.'

"I have answered you by cable that I would write to you in reply. I carried your cablegram home with me and read it to my mother, who is now visiting me. She and I unite in expressing appreciation of the interest which is shown by the American people in the tomb of General Grant, which

is now in the city of New York, owing to the following circumstances, viz :—

“About a week before General Grant's death he handed me a paper which he indicated that he would like me to read. I found its contents were directions in regard to his own burial, the note being in about the following words, which I quote from memory : ‘I have given you directions about all of my affairs except my burial. We own a burial-lot in the cemetery at St. Louis, and I like that city, as it was there I was married and lived for many years, and there three of my children were born. We also have a burial-lot in Galena, and I am fond of Illinois, from which State I entered the army at the beginning of the war. I am also much attached to New York, where I have made my home for several years past, and through the generosity of whose citizens I have been enabled to pass my last days without experiencing the pains of pinching want.’ The last sentence seemed to indicate that a burial-lot might be purchased in New York City.

“After reading this little note I said : ‘It is most distressing to me, father, that you think of this matter, but if we must discuss this subject and you desire to have my opinion I should say that in case of your death, Washington would probably be selected for the place of your burial.’ Father then took back the paper he had written me,

which he tore up. He then retired to his own room, but soon returned and handed me another little note (at that time he could not speak without great pain), which was in substance as follows: 'It is possible that my funeral may become one of public demonstration, in which event I have no particular choice of burial-place; but there is one thing which I would wish you and the family to insist upon, and that is that, wherever my tomb may be, a place shall be reserved for your mother at my side.' My own mention of Washington seemed to have reminded General Grant that the nation might wish to take part in his funeral.

"Upon the death of General Grant, July 23, 1885, many telegrams were immediately received, containing offers from various places of ground for his last resting-place. These telegrams being considered by the widow and family, it was soon decided that the offer made by New York was the most desirable one, as it included the guarantee which General Grant had desired before his death—that his wife should be provided with a last resting-place by his side—therefore this offer was accepted.

"A little later I received a letter from General Robert Macfeely, of Washington, containing an authoritative offer of a site in the 'Soldiers' Home,' near Washington, as the burial-place of my father, at the same time *promising* that my mother and family might

also be buried there. But already the matter had been settled, and my mother held the written guarantee of New York's Mayor that upon her death she should be placed beside her husband, General Grant.

"In a parting letter left to my mother by the General he reiterated what he had said to me, mentioned several places which might be available for his burial, but expressed as his one and only desire that she, upon her death, should rest at his side.

"My mother, myself, and all our family feel deep gratitude for the delicate and touching attentions paid to General Grant's memory and to his tomb at 'Riverside' by the citizens of New York, as well as by the citizens of other States, and since the nation made his great funeral, and wishes to build his tomb, they were and are ready to accede to any plan for his tomb which the nation may decide is best, provided, of course, that his expressed wish be carried out.

"Most touching of all to my mother are the loving tributes which are annually placed upon my father's tomb by his old comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic and by many others from all parts of the country which he served during his life.

"Yours, very sincerely,

"F. D. GRANT."

On May 17, 1877, General Grant began a tour of the world in company with Mrs.

Grant, that had long been one of their cherished schemes. From the day of his departure from Philadelphia until his return in the autumn of 1879, it was an unceasing ovation from people, emperors, and kings and rulers of all countries and nationalities. The best record of this triumphal progress is to be found in the two beautiful volumes, "Around the World with General Grant," by John Russell Young, who was his companion from the start until General Grant returned to the Pacific slope. In making his preparations for this tour, General Grant had no idea of the reception that awaited him, and it was only on the eve of his departure, while he and Mrs. Grant were my guests, that I suggested the necessity of his taking his uniform and sword. Uniform General Grant no longer owned, but one was soon got at Wanamaker's, and his swords were all deposited in Washington, but one was hastily sent to him. Simple in this as in all his tastes and habits, General Grant meant to travel as an American citizen. The splendid popular demonstration given him by way of farewell by the people of Philadelphia was, however, significant of the reception that awaited him at every stage of his journey around the world. When the steamer "Indiana" brought him to Liverpool, the Mayor of that great commercial city formally extended its civic hospitalities to the General; the city of

London conferred upon him its highest honor, the freedom of the city, and this example was followed by several of the other chief towns; the Queen and the Prince of Wales entertained him and his wife, and they were in succession the guests of every crowned head through whose dominions they passed. In France and Switzerland, our sister republics, he was heartily welcomed, and, although he travelled as a private citizen, everywhere he was welcomed with distinguished honor. All of this he quietly accepted, as an evidence of respect to his country, for, as he wrote to me, he "loved to see our country honored and respected abroad," and he had helped to make it so. In many of the letters which I received from him during his trip around the world, the sense of General Grant and of Mrs. Grant that the honors and compliments paid him were regarded simply as a tribute to his native country was emphasized with rare modesty and delicacy. In the East especially General Grant was made the recipient of the most marked attention. In China the highest authorities of the Empire showed him every personal and official courtesy, and just as Bismarck and the other great European statesmen united in honoring him, so in India the native princes, in China the viceroy, Li Hung Chang, and Prince Kung, and in Japan from the Emperor down, all welcomed General Grant as the greatest American citizen. Indeed the Chinese and Japanese

authorities asked him to act as arbitrator in the settlement of their disputes. To this day his visit is referred to as one of the historical events in Japan, and recent travellers are shown temples and sacred shrines that were opened to General Grant, but, as before, are again closed to the rest of the world. The Fourth of July was the day on which the Emperor received him. That his foreign tour is still affectionately remembered abroad is shown by the hearty welcome given to Colonel Fred. Grant in Vienna, where his appointment as United States Minister by President Harrison was received as a special mark of honor. The Austrian authorities and the great world of Vienna join in doing honor to the son as the national representative, just as they did to the father in his capacity of private citizen. General Grant was again received on his return home by the strongest demonstration of popular affection, but his nature remained simple and unspoiled as ever, and his one constant wish was to be permitted to live a quiet, unostentatious life. Most of the wonderful and unusual gifts which all the countries bestowed on him were sent to me from time to time to be cared for, and finally they were deposited by him for safe-keeping in the National Museum at Washington, where they are still an object of interest to thousands of his countrymen. General Grant's journey round the world was not only a source of great plea-

sure to him, but it did a real service to his country in making foreigners of all nationalities better acquainted with it.

He was very fortunate in his travelling companions, for at one time he was joined by his old friend, Mr. Adolph E. Borie, Secretary of the Navy in his first Cabinet, and his nephew, Dr. Keating, an able young physician, of Philadelphia, who printed a very graphic account of their visit to India. Colonel Fred. Grant, too, made one of the party in the East, and thus had an opportunity to make that preparation which fitted him so well for his present office of Minister to Austria. Mr. John Russell Young was with the General through the whole journey, and he was a very welcome addition to the party, for as a journalist he had a large knowledge of men and things, and the General appreciated his great merit and ability, an appreciation shown by his appointment as Minister to China, where Mr. Young showed that a good newspaper man was good for nearly everything, even for difficult and delicate diplomatic duties. No man ever saw so much, was so honored, feted, and entertained as General Grant in this journey, and none ever came home a more thoroughly good citizen, proud of his country and happy to be able to live and die under its flag.

GENERAL GRANT IN PHILADELPHIA.

General Grant's reception in Philadelphia on his return from his tour was thus noticed in Harper's Weekly of January 10, 1880 :—

“The departure of General Grant on his tour around the world was marked by a splendid ovation in Philadelphia. His return to that city was the occasion for a reception which exceeded even that splendid celebration in every way, and was a fitting close to a round of honors seldom equalled in the history of any other hero the world has ever known. On both these occasions General Grant was the guest of Mr. George W. Childs, and naturally people are curious to know something of the home thus honored. Harper's Weekly supplies illustrations of the interior of the mansion on page 25. It is a stately white marble building at the corner of Walnut and Twenty-second streets, built in 1872, and first thrown open to the world by a reception given to General and Mrs. Grant, where his Cabinet and many of the men and women of note in the Quaker City were gathered, together with many distinguished persons from other places. The hospitality thus begun has been continued from that time onward, and the house is full of the memories of great assemblies that have met within its walls.

“Passing through a vestibule richly ornamented with fine marble, the visitor enters a broad hall of highly polished mahogany and satin wood, the walls enriched with rare Chinese cloisonné plaques and vases, and finds on his right a library, with a wealth of rare and curious books and manuscripts that have given bibliographers material for many descriptions. On the walls hang portraits of George Peabody, A. J. Drexel, Henry W. Longfellow, and the Emperor of Brazil; on the book-shelves are choice editions of the great authors, many of them enriched with autographs and notes, while within its alcoves are manuscripts of inestimable value. The collection of letters by the Presidents of the United States is unequalled, while among its other treasures are such rarities as an original sermon by Cotton Mather, complete manuscripts of Sir Walter Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, and Hawthorne, Bryant’s First Book of the Iliad, and letters of Byron, and Moore, and Gray, and Burns, and Pope, and Coleridge, and Schiller, and Lamb. On the other side of the hall is a large drawing-room, opening into a music-room, both decorated with exquisite taste, and full of memorials of guests who have gathered there in rapid succession.

“Beyond is the dining-room. On its walls there are cabinets filled with rare china, glass and silver ware; and a wonderful

carving from the Black Forest, representing the conversion of the Germans, is appropriately mated with modern French bronzes of unusual splendor. Around the hospitable table have gathered some of the best people who have visited Philadelphia. General Grant has been a frequent guest, and around him have sat the Generals who helped him to save the Union—Sherman and Sheridan, Meade and Hancock, McDowell and McClellan. Brazil was represented there by its Emperor and Empress, whose presence gave the Centennial Exhibition at least a continental if not a universal character. England has been welcomed there in its ambassadors, and noblemen whose titles are the least of their honors, such as Lord Dufferin, Lord Rosebery, Lord Houghton, the Earl of Caithness, and Lord Dunraven ; and Dean Stanley, Archdeacon Farrar, Matthew Arnold, and Charles Kingsley, Froude and Goldwin Smith, Tyndall and Herbert Spencer, Henry Irving and Christine Nilsson, John Walter and Sir Edward Thornton, have shared and appreciated the generous greeting given them in this country. Indeed, Lord Houghton in his article describing his visit to America, and Stanley in his, George Augustus Sala in his racy letters to the "London Telegraph," and Dickens in his letters, and Kingsley in his, have *made* all the world witness of their enjoy-

ment of Mr. Childs's hospitality. Our own best American men and women have been familiar guests around the well-spread table, and Longfellow and Holmes, Bancroft, Russell Lowell, and Emerson, George Peabody and his successor J. S. Morgan, of London ; Chauncey M. Depew and George B. Roberts, Asa Packer and Austin Corbin ; Cornelius Vanderbilt and Wm. Waldorf Astor ; James G. Blaine, James A. Bayard, and Samuel J. Randall ; Bishop Simpson, Bishop Potter, and Cardinal Gibbons ; Rev. Dr. McCosh of Princeton College, Andrew D. White of Cornell University, and D. C. Gilman of Johns Hopkins University ; Paul B. Du Chaillu ; J. H. B. Latrobe, and Reverdy Johnson, of Baltimore ; Henry Wilson and Hamilton Fish ; Professor Joseph Henry and Edison, have led the long list of the representatives of American genius and distinction that have shared in Mr. Childs's inexhaustible hospitality.

“A broad staircase, with noble marble wainscot and ebony rail, leads to the upper floors. One room above, the family sitting-room, is rich in photographs, signed by the originals, representing many of the guests who have shared the hearty welcome of the house. One of the paintings is by Ernest Longfellow, the son of our great poet, and an artist who gives promise of making a name for himself. In three cabinets there is such a collection

of rare and beautiful carvings in ivory as might well make an observer suppose that Mr. Childs had devoted all his time to the study of this curious branch of art. Throughout the house there is a wealth of clocks, each with its own special merit of artistic beauty, historical rarity, famous associations, or intrinsic value, and at every step there is something noteworthy. A working library is comfortably housed in a quiet nook on the top floor of the house, and there the student might find the best books of the best writers, and material for almost any direction of literary investigation. Here, too, there is an organ and a musical library of the great masters, showing that the heavenly art is diligently pursued in its highest form, just as the two grand pianos in the alcove opening out of and making part of the great drawing-room bear evidence to the fact that not all the engrossing cares of the host and hostess, nor the manifold charitable claims upon their time and purse, deprive them of the solace of good music. It was to this house that General Grant returned to receive the hearty welcome of his Philadelphia friends, who came to pay their respects to Mr. Childs's guest in quiet, unostentatious, friendly fashion.

"In this same house General Grant wrote his memorable address on the opening of the Exposition, and he was the chief at a famous gathering, met on Mr. Childs's

invitation, on the evening of May 10, 1876, to celebrate the opening of the Centennial Exhibition. The President of the United States and Mrs. Grant, all the members of his Cabinet, the Supreme Court of the United States, the leaders of Congress, the Governors of ten or a dozen States, the chiefs of our army and navy, the diplomatic representatives of all the foreign countries in this country, the Emperor and Empress of Brazil, the numerous and distinguished foreign Commissioners to the Centennial, and as many famous men from all parts of this country and all its varied interests and pursuits, filled the great halls of Mr. Childs's house, and lent to the Centennial that social side which went so far to make its success, and to secure the hearty approval of its thousands of visitors. On a different occasion Mr. Childs brought together all the Centennial Commissioners—their name was legion—and their wonderful costumes, striking decorations, and delightful incongruity of tongues made a gathering not easily described or forgotten. Chinamen in heavy stuffs, and with the pigtail, the peacock's feather, and the mandarin's mysterious button ; Japanese in uniform that showed the baneful effect of civilization in banishing their own comfortable and easy costumes ; Egyptians in court dresses and fez ; Europeans rich in orders ; and Americans whose names were their best

passports both at home and abroad—crowded the mansion.

“ But there have been gatherings there, fit though few, which have had even greater interest for the fortunate guest. Sir Edwin Arnold, as well as Lord Houghton's anxiety to meet Walt Whitman was gratified, and the English poet-peer there sat by the side of the American poet whose wood-note wild had sounded so attractively in the ear of his far-off reader. Dean Stanley held high converse with the liberal clergymen of all types and schools of theology, and shared with them in discussing the methods and the hope of making the world wiser and better by setting it the example of a religion broad enough to take in all who seek to make life purer and nobler. The Marquis de Rochambeau was welcomed there as the representative of a name dear to every American, for his ancestor was the leader of the French allied force that helped to make the Revolution and to establish the independence of this country. Charles Francis Adams and Edmund Quincy, both for their own sakes as indefatigable workers and as the representatives of the honored historic names of our own earliest days, were received with hearty welcome; and Robert C. Winthrop, with a lineage that goes back to the earliest of New England's leaders, and Hamilton Fish, with the double *claim of ancestral merit and of his own*

services to the State, Chief Justice Waite, and William M. Evarts, as the leader of the American bar, were glad to meet around Mr. Childs's hospitable table the Philadelphia lawyers whose names recall their ancestors—Rawles and Cadwaladers, Ingersolls, Dallasses, Tilghmans, Biddles, and Whartons."

General Grant was made a member of the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC in my private office, in the Ledger Building, on the morning of May 16th, 1877. On his consenting to join General George G. Meade Post, No. 1, of Philadelphia, arrangements were made for the usual muster in the Post room, but in preparing for his proposed tour around the world General Grant was delayed in reaching the city, and then the engagements made for his entertainment, both public and private, occupied every moment of his time. It became necessary to change the plans, and Colonel Beath, then Adjutant-General of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Samuel Worthington, Adjutant of Post 1, called on me to fix the hour that would best suit General Grant for the Grand Army Service.

Accordingly, at the time fixed, the officers and members of Meade Post met in my office, and there General Grant assumed the obligations of the Order, and received the badge of membership, which he wore frequently

during his tour abroad, and at home on public occasions.

At noon of the same day a public reception was held in Independence Hall, and thousands of veterans, with other citizens, shook hands with General Grant, bade him good-by, and wished him a prosperous voyage.

Upon his return from this remarkable tour, Philadelphia, of course, welcomed him with unstinted liberality.

The evening of December 12th, 1879, was devoted to the Grand Army of the Republic, the Academy of Music being packed with an audience of over five thousand enthusiastic veterans. Only a few personal friends could be admitted on that occasion, Bishop Simpson, A. J. Drexel, George H. Stuart, and myself being of the number.

The escort of General Grant from the Continental Hotel to the Academy of Music was probably one of the most thrilling and touching scenes ever witnessed in Philadelphia. A guard composed of members of Post 1 and representatives from all the city Posts acted as escort, and grouped around General Grant's carriage were a large number of color-bearers carrying tattered and battle-stained flags. Fireworks blazed at every point along the route. The streets were densely packed with an enthusiastic throng, and altogether the scene was one never to be forgotten by those *who witnessed it.*

General Hartranft, Commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, presided at the meeting, and Governor Henry M. Hoyt made an eloquent address of welcome.

General Grant's reply was made in a clear and distinct tone, that was plainly heard all over the building, and was listened to with the closest attention. He said :—

“It is a matter of very deep regret with me that I had not thought of something or prepared something to say in response to the welcome which I am receiving at your hands this evening, but really since my arrival I have not had the time, and before that I scarcely thought of it. But I can say to you all that in the two years and seven months since I left this city to make a circuit of the globe, I have visited every capital in Europe and most of the Eastern nations, but there has not been a country which I have visited in that circuit where I have not found some of our members. In crossing our own land from the Pacific to the Atlantic side, there is scarcely a new settlement, a cattle range or collection of pioneers, that is not largely composed of veterans of the late war. It calls to my mind the fact that while wars are to be deplored, and unjust wars always to be avoided, yet they are not an unmixed evil. The boy who is brought up in his country home, or his village home, or his city home, without any exciting cause, is apt

to remain there and follow the pursuits of his parent, and not develop beyond it, and in the majority of cases not come up to it ; but being carried away in the great struggle, and particularly one where so much principle is involved as in our late conflict, it brings to his view a wider field than he contemplated at his home, and although in his field service he longs for the home he left behind him, yet when he gets there he finds that a disappointment, and has struck out for new fields, and has developed the vast dominions which are given to us for our keeping—for the thousands of liberty-seeking people. The ex-soldier has become the pioneer, not only of our land, but has extended our commerce and trade, and knowledge of us and our institutions to all other lands, and when brighter days dawn upon other nations—particularly those nations of the East—America will step in for her share of the trade which will be opened, and through the exertions of the ex-soldiers—the comrades, veterans—and, I might say, members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

“Comrades, having been compelled, as often as I have been since my arrival in San Francisco, to utter a few words not only to ex-soldiers, but to all other classes of citizens of our great country, and always speaking without any preparation, I have necessarily *been obliged* to repeat, possibly in not the

same words, but the same ideas. But the one thing I want to impress on you is that we have a country to be proud of, to fight for and die for if necessary. While many of the countries of Europe give practical protection and freedom to the citizen, yet there is no European country that compares in its resources with our own. There is no country where the energetic man can, by his own labor, and by his own industry, ingenuity, and frugality, acquire competency as he can in America.

"A trip abroad, and a study of the institutions and difficulties of a poor man making his way in the world, is all that is necessary to make us better citizens and happier with our lot here.

"Comrades, I thank you for the very cordial welcome you have given me."

General Grant retained his membership with Post 1 until his death, and when he died at Mt. McGregor, Post No. 327, of Brooklyn, through associations with Colonel Fred. D. Grant, tendered their services as a guard of honor, and they so acted at the cottage and during the funeral ceremonies with a similar detail from Post 32, of Saratoga.

The G. A. R. ceremonies at the grave at Riverside Park, New York City, were exceedingly solemn and appropriate, and were conducted by the officers and members of Meade Post.

On the first Memorial Day after the burial of General Grant, General John A. Logan, who had the distinguished honor of directing the observance of May 30th, as a memorial day for the Union dead, delivered a most eloquent eulogy over the grave of his dead comrade.

I may say here that the growth of the Grand Army has been somewhat phenomenal in view of the time that has elapsed since the war. The order was instituted in April, 1866, by Dr. D. F. Stephenson, of Springfield, Illinois, and for some years had a somewhat precarious existence. It did not seem to have the confidence of the veterans of the country, and after the first start it declined very rapidly. It reached its lowest point in 1876. When General Grant joined Post 1 in 1877 it was a very small Post, and the whole order only numbered 26,899 in twenty-two departments. Each year thereafter, however, the advance was marked. Over 80,000 were mustered in a single year, and now the membership is over 400,000 in forty-three departments.

The amount of relief directly disbursed by the Posts has reached nearly two million dollars.

The following, written at the time of the General's death by his devoted and valued friend, General E. F. Beale, of Washington,

is so accurate and just that I am glad to quote it here :

“He was so truthful, so serene, so frank and of such simplicity, that it was impossible to know and not to love him. I feel that the world is better that he has lived. Many a one thinking of his patience will suffer with more fortitude, trials and misfortunes, and knowing how beautiful virtue made his life, endeavor to imitate it. History will tell how he won great battles, and how the most occult problems of state craft were dealt with in his masterly way, but it would be better if the world knew more of the sweetness and purity of his private life. I had the high honor of his friendship, and saw him in his familiar hour when the mask which all public men must wear in public was laid aside with the reserve which accompanies it. I was his companion in his walks and rides, and saw and heard him talk in his quiet, reposeful manner on all gentle themes. He loved to ride through woods and note the different trees, and he knew them all, and speak of their growth and habits. He loved the growing grain and the means and processes of quickening it. He loved horses and farm animals, and a quiet, contemplative life mixed with the activity of out-door work.”

I never heard General Grant say, nor did I ever know him to do, a mean thing. His entire truthfulness, his perfect honesty, were beyond question. I think of him, now that he is dead, with ever-increasing admiration ; I can recall no instance of vanity, of bombast, or of self-laudation. He was one of the greatest, noblest, and most modest of men—equally great in civil and in military life.

WEST POINT.

In June, 1887, I was in attendance at West Point as President of the Board of Visitors. On a certain important occasion both Generals Sherman and Sheridan were present, and the latter remarked to me that he had heard of the portrait of General Grant which I had presented to the Military Academy, and desired to see it. I told him that it was hung in "Mess Hall," the name of which building, upon the presentation of the painting, was changed at my suggestion to GRANT HALL. So we went down and saw the portrait, one nearly of full length. Sheridan admired it very much; and I turned to him and said, "Now, General, if I outlive you I will have your portrait painted to place alongside of Grant's."

So it came about. The portraits of Sheridan and Sherman were painted, and along with Grant's were placed in Grant Hall, and were formally presented to the government on October 3, 1889.

The following is from Harper's Weekly, New York, Saturday, October 19, 1889 :—

MR. CHILDS AT WEST POINT.

“The gift of the portraits of Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan is not the only benefaction of Mr. Childs to the West Point Academy, as the following letter shows :—

“ ‘The visitor to the beautiful cemetery of the Military Academy, on the hill-side overlooking the Hudson at West Point, will see there, above the graves of officers and cadets, a number of monuments, which are all of the same original and striking design. The massive base of each is of gray unpolished granite ; on that rests a block of red granite, polished, and on that a bronze cannon-ball fifteen inches in diameter ; on one side of that is placed a large bronze shield, at the top of which is the insignia of the rank of him to whose memory it was erected ; below that are the name, dates of birth and of death, and an appropriate epitaph. These monuments are all the gift of Mr. George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, and how they came there is told by Colonel Wilson, the present Superintendent of the Military Academy.

“ ‘In 1887 Mr. Childs was appointed by President Cleveland a member of the Board of Visitors to West Point, and during his extended visit there, in the discharge of his duties as President of the Board, he saw in the cemetery of the academy several graves above which no memorials were erected. *Mr. Childs* suggested to General Merritt, the

then Superintendent, who entirely sympathized with his generous design, that efforts should be made to ascertain from the friends of those whose graves were marked by no stone if it was their purpose to erect monuments above them, and if not, to obtain their consent to Mr. Childs doing so. The result was that the above-described monuments were placed in the cemetery, Mr. Childs having had the design of them especially made, and paying the entire cost of their construction and erection. Mr. Childs is the author of many good gifts, but we know of no other which so much as this denotes the gentle, kindly nature of the man.' "

The following editorial is from the New York World, October 5, 1889:—

"Mr. George W. Childs's gift of portraits of Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan to the Military Academy at West Point illustrates anew that gentleman's rare gift of doing the right thing at the right time, in the right way. Not many men have the impulse to give and to do public-spirited things in so large a measure as he, and still rarer are those who share his genius for seeing what may be best done and how it may be most fitly accomplished. Now that he has hung upon the walls of the Military Academy these portraits of the three great leaders of the Union armies from 1861 to 1865, it is obvious to every intelligence that

this was a peculiarly fit and excellent thing to do. But nobody else had the gift to recognize the need and the generosity to supply it. This peculiar grace and quickness of perception have distinguished all of the liberal Philadelphian's benefactions and greatly enhanced their value and their influence. He is a consummate artist in well-doing, and the accomplishment is an exceedingly rare one."

The Secretary of War, in his annual report for the year 1889, says:—

"Through the patriotic generosity of Mr. George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, the Academy was enriched, through interesting ceremonies on the 3d of October last, by the presentation of fine oil paintings of the three Generals of the Army whose names will remain indissolubly connected with the war for the preservation of the Union—Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan."

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Sept. 30, 1889.—George W. Childs, Esq., Philadelphia.—My Dear Sir: I am just in receipt of your kind invitation to attend the exercises at West Point on the 3d proximo in connection with the presentation by you to the Academy of the portraits of Generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan.

Let me assure you that I decline the invitation with regret. But my engagements here

are such as to make an acceptance impossible. The observation by the cadets of the portraits of these great captains and patriots cannot fail to be a source of inspiration and encouragement. Very sincerely yours,

BENJ. HARRISON.

LETTER FROM GENERAL HOWARD.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC, Governor's Island, N. Y., Oct. 1, 1889.—George W. Childs, Esq., Ledger Building, Chestnut Street, Phila.—My Dear Sir: Nothing but a positive engagement of long standing and one of great importance could have kept me from being with you at the presentation on the 3d inst. Allow me to thank you for these ever-increasing evidences of your large-heartedness and patriotic devotion. Sincerely your friend,

O. O. HOWARD,

Maj.-Gen. U. S. Army.

The New York Tribune gave the following account of the formal presentation of the portraits:—

“WEST POINT, N. Y., Oct. 3, 1889.—Many interests were happily woven into one to give distinction to a memorable day at this place. Memorable indeed it must in any case have been. So much the occasion assured. But it was a happy circumstance, and added greatly to heighten the interest and impressiveness of the ceremonies that

the presentation to the corps of cadets by a liberal citizen of the portraits of our three great patriotic commanders should not only have drawn together so distinguished a company of our own people, but should also have been witnessed and honored by the presence of the International American Congress, the official representatives of nearly all the republics of the three Americas. And in all this remarkable audience none looked on and listened with greater interest and attention than the dignified men whose whole demeanor to-day showed that they have come here not as foreigners, but as friends. They seemed to feel that the name of America might be broad enough to embrace and unite a hemisphere. . . .

“After a national salute from the field battery on the plain, in honor of the Congress of the Americas, the battalion of cadets formed in line, under the orders of the commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Hawkins, and after passing in review in common and double time before the superintendent, Colonel John M. Wilson, and the Secretary of War, marched in a body to Grant Hall, and stood at parade rest at the south end while the company seated itself in the body of the hall and on the platform at the north end. Here, on the walls, concealed by handsome silk flags, hung the three large paintings of Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan, which George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, was about to present

to the Academy. Beneath them, besides the members of the Congress, sat General Sherman himself, with Mr. Childs on his right; Colonel Wilson, with Secretary Proctor on his left, and Chaplain Postlethwaite on his right; Generals Van Vliet, Fitz John Porter, Horace Porter, Michael V. Sheridan, Adjutant-General Kelton, Hon. John Bigelow, Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr., Hon. Wayne MacVeagh, Senor Romero, Mexican Minister (a devoted friend of General Grant), J. G. do Amaral Valente, Brazilian Minister, and many noted soldiers and citizens, together with the officers of the Academic staff and the ladies of their families.

"After a short and earnest prayer by the Rev. W. M. Postlethwaite, the chaplain of the Academy, the three flags fell simultaneously at a signal from Colonel Wilson and the portraits stood revealed. They are all the work of Mrs. Darragh, of Philadelphia. Grant, which naturally hangs in the middle, was painted from Gutekunst's photograph of 1865, and represents him in an easy attitude in full general's uniform, without sword or epaulets, the frock coat unbuttoned, the right hand thrust in the trousers pocket, and the left resting in the folds of the breast. Sherman, on Grant's left, is from Huntington's portrait of 1874; while Sheridan, on the opposite side, was taken from life, shortly before his death. They are all extremely

lifelike, as the men looked at the time. General Sherman naturally looked older than his counterfeit, but a startling resemblance to Sheridan was seen and remarked in the person of his brother, who survives him, and who sat there as if to invite the verification. The audience stood while the band played 'Hail Columbia.' Then General Horace Porter made an eloquent, scholarly, and even masterly, presentation speech in behalf of Mr. Childs. He was well received and heartily applauded throughout, as well as at the close."

The New York World of October 4 records the presentation as follows:—

"The ceremonies of the unveiling of the portraits quickly followed the review in Grant Hall, and as the assemblage took their seats the appearance of General Sherman and Mr. Childs on the platform brought about a storm of applause. The old hero bowed and smiled good-naturedly, and Mr. Childs modestly, seated beside Colonel Wilson, who presided as the chairman of the meeting, blushed as though some one had asked him to take command of the Army. It was military throughout, the way the ceremonies began. Mr. Post, chaplain, said a short prayer. At its close Colonel Wilson raised his hand and silence prevailed. Behind the platform there were three American flags hanging against the wall, and all eyes

were fixed upon them. The Colonel's hand came down on the table in front of him, there was one beat of the drum, and the three flags disappeared as if wiped out by electricity, and the three portraits of the great Generals were revealed. Round upon round of applause followed, the cadets marched in the hall behind the audience, presented arms, and the band struck up 'Hail Columbia.' As Mr. Childs stood up like the others on the platform to gaze upon the portraits he was applauded to the echo, the ladies waving their handkerchiefs, and the cadets beating the floor with the butt end of their muskets. What Mr. Childs had promised General Sheridan in 1887, when he said, 'General, if I outlive you, I will have your portrait painted and hung there beside that of Grant; I think it would be a good idea to paint Sherman also and to hang him on the one side of Grant and you on the other,' was an accomplished fact. Mr. Childs looked towards General Sherman as he took his seat and the old hero clasped him warmly by the hand.

"General Horace Porter's address was listened to with great attention and loudly applauded. When Mr. Childs's name was mentioned as well as General Sherman's the applause was loud and long-continued.

COLONEL WILSON'S REMARKS.

"Colonel Wilson's reply to General Porter, accepting the portraits for the Academy, was a ringing one and astonished his fellow-soldiers by its oratorical delivery. Even Secretary of War Proctor remarked in the few words he said to the audience on being called for that, 'West Point evidently brought out not only good soldiers, but splendid orators.'

"'Mr. Childs,' said Colonel Wilson, 'in the name of the United States Military Academy I accept these splendid portraits of the trio of heroes to whom our country is so much indebted for its grandeur and its unity. It is particularly appropriate that you, one of the ablest leaders in that profession which is surely kindred to that of arms, the press of the nation, should present to this, their *Alma Mater*, the portraits of these eminent men. The power of the press is to-day felt throughout the civilized world. It is the press that urges us to "do noble deeds, not dream them all day long." It is men like you who are leading these magnificent armies of the press in peace, that are reducing the Malakoffs of vice and Redans of evil. In the name of the Military Academy I thank you for this generous and noble gift, and may I not express the hope that to prove to those who come after us "that peace hath its victories as well as war," we ere long

may see upon these walls, among the portraits of these eminent soldiers, that of the able, upright, philanthropic, conscientious Christian citizen, that generous, true-hearted man, Mr. George W. Childs ?'

"The Secretary of War then made a few remarks, which were well received.

"General Sherman, who, during all these ceremonies, had sat on the platform with folded hands and tear-dimmed and down-cast eyes, in response to many calls, was next introduced. As the General arose the assemblage broke forth into wild cheering.

"The applause was persistent as General Sherman stood upon his feet, after repeated calls. He spoke with feeling, and his deeply lined face, closely watched by those who never before had seen him, was moved by intense earnestness. The light of clustered lamps fell upon his silvered head as he spoke, and his strong face was tremulous with emotion as he referred to the fact that by a strange accident of nature he was the only one living now of the three whose portraits were before his hearers, and there was a sad quality in his voice when he said, 'I was older than either Grant or Sheridan.'

GENERAL SHERMAN'S REMARKS.

" 'Ladies and Gentlemen and those Cadets behind : I fear that West Point is losing that good old reputation for doing and not speak-

ing. I have done more talking than I should have done, and I believe I have done some good, though not such as I thought of doing. It is one of those strange incidents of my life that I am permitted to stand before you to-night the sole survivor of the trio, or trinity, of the Generals of the Army of the United States. I was older than Grant or Sheridan. No three men ever lived on the earth's surface so diverse in mental and physical attributes as the three men whose portraits you now look upon. Different in every respect except one—we had a guiding star; we had an emblem of nationality in our minds implanted at West Point, which made us come together for the common purpose like the rays of the sun coming together make them burn. This, my young friends in gray, I want you to remember, that men may differ much, but that by coming together in harmony and friendship and love they may move mountains.

“I knew these men from the soles of their feet to the tops of their heads. They breathed the same feelings with me. We were soldiers to obey the orders of our country's government and carry them out whatever the peril that threatened us. Having done so, we laid down our arms, like good citizens that we hope to have been, giving the example to all of the world that war is for one purpose—to produce peace. A just war will produce peace; an unjust war has ambition

or some other bad motive. Our war was purely patriotic, to help the Government in its peril. We were taught to idolize that flag on the flagstaff, obeying the common law, and working to a common purpose. No jealousies, nothing of the kind; working together like soldiers, the lieutenant obeying the captain, the captain his colonel, the brigadier the general, and all subordinate to the President of the United States—the Commander-in-Chief. There is no need to prophesy; it is as plain as mathematics. You can look in the heavens and read it. It is the lesson of life. When war comes you can have but one purpose—your country—and by your country I mean the whole country, not part of it.' "

At the close of the remarks of General Sherman immense cheers rang through the hall.

GENERAL HORACE PORTER'S ADDRESS.

General Horace Porter was General Grant's trusted and tried friend for the last twenty-five years of his life. He was one of his staff officers throughout the war, and his Military Secretary while he was President of the United States. The following is the touching and elegant address which he delivered on this occasion:—

"The only representatives of royalty recognized in this land are our merchant

princes. We are indebted for the occasion which brings us together to-day to the princely act of a public-spirited and patriotic citizen who has conferred upon the Military Academy souvenirs of her three most distinguished graduates whose historic features have been transferred to canvas by the limner's art. One dwelling in our midst, two dwelling in our memories. One bearing the laurel upon a living brow ; two wearing the laurel intertwined with the cypress. The history of their lives is the most brilliant chapter in the history of their country. It savors more of romance than reality ; it is more like a fabled tale of ancient days than the story of American soldiers of the nineteenth century.

"Most of the conspicuous characters in history have risen to prominence by gradual steps, but the senior of the triumvirate, whose features are recalled to us to-day, came before the people with a sudden bound. Almost the first sight caught of him was in the blaze of his camp-fires and the flashes of his guns those wintry days and nights in front of Donelson. From that time until the closing triumph at Appomattox the great central figure of the war was ULYSSES S. GRANT. As light and shade produce the most attractive effects in a picture, so the singular contrasts, the strange vicissitudes of his eventful life surround him with an interest which attaches

to few characters in history. His rise from an obscure lieutenant to the command of the veteran armies of the great Republic; his transition from a frontier post of the untrodden West to the Executive Mansion of the nation; his sitting at one time in a little store in Galena, not even known to the Congressman from his district; at another time striding through the palaces of the Old World, with the descendants of a line of kings rising and standing uncovered in his presence,—these are some of the features of his marvelous career which appeal to the imagination, excite men's wonder, and fascinate all who make a study of his life.

“He was created for great emergencies. It was the very magnitude of the task which called forth the powers that mastered it. In ordinary matters he was an ordinary man; in momentous affairs he towered as a giant. When performing the routine duties of a company post, there was no act to make him conspicuous above his fellow-officers, but when he wielded corps and armies the great qualities of the Commander flashed forth, and his master-strokes of genius stamped him as the foremost soldier of his age. When he hauled wood from his little farm and sold it in St. Louis his financiering was hardly equal to that of the small farmers about him, but when a message was to be sent by a President to Congress that would puncture

the fallacies of the inflationists and throttle by a veto the attempt of unwise legislators to cripple the finances of the nation, a State paper was produced which has ever since commanded the wonder and admiration of every believer in a sound currency. He was made for great things, not for little. He could collect fifteen millions from Great Britain in settlement of the Alabama claims; he could not protect his own personal savings from the miscreants who robbed him in Wall Street.

“If there is one word which describes better than any other the predominating characteristic of his nature, that word is loyalty. He was loyal to his friends, loyal to his family, loyal to his country, and loyal to his God. This trait naturally produced a reciprocal effect upon those who were brought into relations with him, and was one of the chief reasons why men became so loyally attached to him. Many a public man has had troops of adherents who clung to him only for the patronage dispensed at his hands, or being dazzled by his power became blind partisans in a cause he represented, but perhaps no other man than General Grant ever had so many personal friends who loved him for his own sake, whose affection only strengthened with time, whose attachment never varied in its devotion, whether he was General or *President*, or simply private citizen.

“He was generous alike to friends and foes. So magnanimous was he to his enemy that we find him after the close of the war risking his commission in saving from prosecution in the civil courts his great military antagonist upon the battle-fields of Virginia.

“Even the valor of his martial deeds was surpassed by the superb heroism he displayed when fell disease attacked him, when the hand which had seized the surrendered swords of countless thousands was no longer able to return the pressure of a comrade’s grasp, when he met in death the first enemy to whom he ever surrendered. But with him death brought eternal rest, and he was permitted to enjoy what he had pleaded for in behalf of others, for the Lord had let him have peace.

“Turn we now to Grant’s immediate successor in the office of General-in-Chief, his illustrious Lieutenant with whom he divided a field of military operations which covered half a Continent, the skilful strategist, the brilliant writer, the commander whose orders spoke with the true bluntness of the soldier, who fought from valley’s depth to mountain height, who marched from inland rivers to the sea—WILLIAM T. SHERMAN.

“He has shown himself possessed of the highest characteristics of the soldier. Bold in conception, self-reliant, demonstrating by his acts that ‘much danger makes great hearts most resolute,’ prompt in decision,

unshrinking under grave responsibilities, fertile in resources, quick to adapt the means at hand to the accomplishment of an end, possessing an intuitive knowledge of topography, combining the restlessness of a Hotspur with the patience of a Fabius, unswerving in patriotism, of unimpeachable personal character; with a physical constitution which enabled him to undergo every hardship incident to an active campaign, it is no wonder that he has filled so large a measure of military greatness, that he stands in the front rank of the world's great captains.

"No name connected with American warfare inspires more genuine enthusiasm, appeals more to our sentiments, or more excites our fancy than that of the wizard of the battlefield, PHILIP H. SHERIDAN. The personification of chivalry, the incarnation of battle; cheering, threatening, inciting, beseeching, inspiring all men by his acts, he roused his troops to deeds of individual heroism unparalleled in the history of modern warfare, and his unconquerable columns rushed to victory with all the confidence of Cæsar's Tenth Legion. Generous of his life, gifted with the ingenuity of a Hannibal, the dash of a Murat, the courage of a Ney, the magnetism of his presence transformed routed squadrons into charging columns, and snatched victory from defeat. He preferred shot and shell to flags of truce; he would rather lead forlorn hopes *than follow* in the wake of charges.

“His standard rose above all others on the field ; wherever blows fell thickest his crest was in their midst ; despite the daring valor of the defence, opposing ranks went down before the fierceness of his onsets never to rise again ; he paused not till the folds of his banners waved over the strongholds he had wrested from the foe. While his achievements in actual battle eclipse, by their brilliancy, the strategy and grand tactics employed in his campaigns, yet the skill and boldness exhibited in moving large bodies of men into position entitle him, perhaps, to as much credit as the marvellous qualities he displayed in the face of the enemy.

“Brave Sheridan ! Methinks I see your silent clay again quickened into life, once more riding Rienzi through a fire of hell, leaping opposing earthworks at a single bound, and leaving nothing of those who barred your way except the fragments scattered in your path.

“Matchless Leader ! Harbinger of Victory, we salute you !

“As long as manly courage is talked of or heroic deeds are honored, there will remain green in the hearts of men the talismanic name of Sheridan.

“Nearly every great war has given birth to one great general ; no other war than our own has produced three such eminent commanders. In their portraits future graduates will gaze upon the features of three

soldiers who were heroes, comrades, friends. As iron is welded in the heat of the forge so was their friendship welded in the heat of battles. With hearts untouched by jealousy, with souls too great for rivalry, they saved us from the spectacle presented by a Marius and a Sulla, a Cæsar and a Pompey, a Charles the First and a Cromwell. They placed above all personal ends the safety of the State, and, like the men in the Roman phalanx of old, stood shoulder to shoulder and linked their shields against a common foe.

“In this life little is learned from precept, something from experience, much from example. It is said that for three hundred years after Thermopylæ every school child in Greece was required each day to repeat from memory the names of the three hundred immortal heroes who fell in the defence of that pass. It would be in itself a liberal education to the future defenders of the Republic who bear diplomas from this historic spot, where patriotism early found a stronghold and treason’s plots were baffled, if they could daily utter the names and contemplate the exalted characters of the trio whose faces will henceforth look down upon them from the artist’s canvas. As we gaze upon the features of each one of them we may fittingly apply the words of Milton :—

“ ‘ Thither shall all the valiant youth resort,
And from his memory inflame their breasts
To matchless valour.’ ”

"The imperishable scroll on which the record of their deeds is written has been securely lodged in the highest niche of Fame's temple. No one can pluck a single laurel from their brow ; no man can lessen the measure of their renown.

"It is an auspicious circumstance which permits these ceremonies to take place before so distinguished and influential a body as that of the International American Congress. The presence of its delegates upon this post dedicated to war is an augury that States may be saved without the sword ; that henceforth our differences in the New World may be settled without resorting to the 'last argument of kings,' and that congresses, bearing in their hands the olive branch, will labor to avoid war, which wastes a nation's substance, to foster commerce, which is a nation's life, and to preserve that peace and good-will which should everywhere prevail amongst men.

"Three years ago there was selected as President of your Board of Visitors a citizen of Philadelphia, whose heart is as large as his purse, and whose generosity dwells in a land which knows no frontiers—Mr. George W. Childs. His thoughtfulness prompted his liberality to procure for the Academy these gifts which are to grace its walls.

"The likeness of General Grant was executed by Mrs. Darragh, of Philadelphia. It was made from a photograph taken by

Gutekunst, of that city, in 1865, which Mrs. Grant and a number of the General's friends considered the best of the many pictures taken of him just after the war. Representing him as he appeared nearly thirty years ago, his features do not seem so familiar to those who saw him only in later years. Mrs. Darragh was also commissioned to execute the portraits of Sheridan and Sherman. In the preparation of General Sherman's picture her chief guide was the famous portrait of him painted by Huntington, fifteen years ago, and her aim was to represent the General as of that period. General Sheridan sat for his portrait, and she painted it from life, representing the General as he appeared but a short time before his lamented death.

"It now becomes my agreeable duty, in the name of Mr. Childs, to present to you, Colonel Wilson, as Superintendent of the Military Academy, the portraits of three of her sons who have borne the highest military titles, as an offering from an untitled citizen, who, in his living, has verified the adage that the post of honor is the private station.

"His good works have made him honored in other lands, as well as this, where his name is held in grateful recollection by the many who have been the recipients of his practical philanthropy; and not only the graduates of West Point, but the people at large, will, I am sure, make grateful ac-

knowledge of the means he has taken, in those testimonials, to manifest his appreciation of the Military Academy and the three distinguished sons she trained to battle for the integrity of our common country."

There were loud cheers as the General sat down, and then the band struck up "Yankee Doodle," the ladies and guests generally rushed from their seats, and as they filed out into the dark after the cadet corps Mr. Childs was surrounded by the officers and the American delegates, who shook him by the hand heartily and congratulated him upon the grand success of his patriotic plan of 1887.

HISTORY OF THE PORTRAITS.

Major John M. Carson, chief of the Philadelphia Ledger Bureau at Washington, has furnished the following account of the painting of the Portraits of Generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan for the Military Academy:—

"The creation of portraits of Generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan, now hung in the Cadet Mess Hall—to be hereafter known as Grant Hall—at the United States Military Academy, West Point, was begun about three years ago. The original purpose was confined to a portrait of Grant. The

portraits of Sherman and Sheridan sprang from this purpose, and considering the relations of Mr. George W. Childs, to whose patriotism and liberality the Military Academy is indebted for the portraits, with those three military chieftains, the Sherman and Sheridan paintings were an easy and logical outgrowth. The scheme from which these three large valuable paintings emanated was evolved from a comparatively unimportant incident. About four years ago, with that skill and ingenuity which have made him famous in the management of the Cadet Mess, Captain William F. Spurgin, Treasurer, Quartermaster and Commissary of Cadets, succeeded in giving the Mess Hall a new floor and having its walls brightened.

“Captain Spurgin next conceived the idea of making the Hall still more attractive by hanging pictures and portraits upon the walls. This was approved by General Wesley Merritt, then Superintendent of the Academy, who authorized the transfer from the library of several portraits for this purpose. When these were hung in the Mess Hall a new idea was suggested to Captain Spurgin, and he concluded that it would be most appropriate to collect for the Hall portraits and photographs of the distinguished graduates of the Academy. It was naturally thought that the daily presence with the cadets of these exemplars of the Academy could not *fail* to exercise a wholesome influence upon

the corps. They would furnish cadets when at meals suggestions for thought and conversation, and those who occupied seats at tables once occupied by Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Meade, Thomas, Hancock, and other eminent graduates, as they looked upon the portraits, would be encouraged to emulate the lives of those great chieftains. In addition to this, it was thought that such a gallery might be collected through relatives and friends, without expense to the Government or the Academy.

"During one of my periodical visits to the Academy Captain Spurgin outlined his scheme, and said he would like to obtain a good picture of General Grant. It was suggested that Mr. George W. Childs had several good large size photographs of Grant, and would doubtless be glad to contribute one of them for this use. Captain Spurgin wrote to Mr. Childs, who agreed to comply with the request made. Shortly thereafter Mr. Childs mentioned this matter to Mrs. U. S. Grant, who said that she would like, above all things, to have a good likeness of her husband at the Military Academy, for which he always entertained a feeling of admiration and love. Some years prior to this Mr. Childs had Leutze, who painted 'Westward the Course of Empire' upon the wall of the west stairway to the gallery of the House of Representatives, at Washington, paint a portrait of General Grant, and suggested that

the Leutze painting be transferred from the library to the Cadet Mess Hall. The Leutze portrait was not liked by Mrs. Grant, and she did not, therefore, care to have it used for this purpose. Mr. Childs then said he would have a portrait of the General made for West Point from any picture Mrs. Grant might select. The photograph made by Gutekunst, of Philadelphia, in 1865, was selected by Mrs. Grant, and Mrs. Darragh, of Philadelphia, was commissioned to paint a portrait from it. The General stood for this photograph. It is regarded by his family, and those who were his associates, as a correct likeness of the General as he appeared at the close of the war. When the photograph was taken General Grant wore upon his left arm a badge of mourning for President Lincoln. This emblem of mourning does not appear in the painting. To many of those who knew General Grant after he became President, the Darragh portrait is not considered good, but by the family of the General, and by those who were intimate with him during and immediately after the war, it is regarded as a faithful likeness and an excellent portrait. It was sent to the Academy in May, 1887, and hung on the north wall of the Cadet Mess Hall. General Merritt, 'in honor of the great graduate of the Academy, whose portrait, a present to the Academy from Mr. George W. Childs, *sanctifies* the hall as a gallery for the portraits

of graduates,' issued an order directing that thereafter the cadet dining-hall should be known officially as GRANT HALL.

"In June, 1887, a few days after the Grant portrait had been hung, Mr. Childs visited the Military Academy as a member of the Board of Visitors, upon which occasion I accompanied him. General Sheridan also visited the Academy at that time in his official capacity as Lieutenant-General commanding the army, and it proved to be his last visit to the institution. In company with Mr. Childs General Sheridan visited the dining-hall to inspect the Grant portrait, and during this inspection Mr. Childs said to the General, in his quick but cheerful manner in conversation: 'General, if I outlive you I will have your portrait painted and hung there beside that of Grant.'

"Sheridan responded: 'Mr. Childs, if you intend to have painted a portrait of me I would like to see it before it is hung in this hall.'

"'All right,' said Mr. Childs; 'you shall see it. I would prefer to have you painted while living.'

"After further conversation about the Grant portrait, the two gentlemen left the hall and walked to the house of the superintendent, General Merritt, at which General Sheridan was a guest. Mr. Childs proceeded to the West Point Hotel. Sheridan arrived at the Point that morning, and was to re-

view the corps of cadets in the afternoon, and, as it was near the hour fixed for the parade when General Merritt's house was reached, he went directly to his room to don his uniform. While thus engaged he sent a messenger to Mr. Childs, asking that gentleman to join him before 'parade,' and, at the same time, invited the Board of Visitors, through Mr. Childs, who was President of the Board, to attend him during the ceremonies of parade and review.

"When Mr. Childs joined the General on the porch of the superintendent's house, the latter said: 'Mr. Childs, while putting on my uniform, I could not help musing about our conversation in the Mess Hall. If you are in earnest about painting my portrait for the Academy, I want to be painted from life.'

"'I am in earnest,' replied Mr. Childs. 'The portrait shall be painted, upon one condition—it must please Mrs. Sheridan. I think it would be a good idea to paint Sherman also, and to hang him on the one side of Grant and you on the other.'

"'That certainly would be a generous act upon your part,' said Sheridan, 'and one which would be appreciated by Sherman and myself. I would rather have you do this service than any other man, because no one could do it with so much propriety.' The relations between Grant and you were *bound by strong ties of mutual affection.*

Those between you, Sherman, and myself have been most intimate. We have all been guests at the same time, and many times, at your house. You have come to know us better than other men know us. Grant, Sherman, and myself were closely connected with the suppression of the rebellion. United thus in our lives, we should be placed together here, returned as it were to the Academy from which we started out in the morning of life as second lieutenants. Associated as you have been with us, you are the very man to keep us united after death.'

"'All right, General,' said Mr. Childs. 'The portraits shall be painted and hung in the Mess Hall. Now select your artist.'

"When Mr. Childs spoke to General Sheridan in the Mess Hall about painting his portrait, the latter did not think that Mr. Childs was serious. I happen to know that Mr. Childs formed the determination to add the portraits of Sherman and Sheridan to his contribution prior to his visit to the Academy, and informed General Sheridan of this fact upon his return to Washington from West Point during a conversation in which he related to me what I have stated touching the conversation with Mr. Childs at West Point, and also the conversation between Childs, Sheridan, and Sherman in relation to painting a portrait of the General last named.

"Shortly after the conversation between Childs and Sheridan, on the porch of the

superintendent's house, the battalion was formed on the parade ground. General Sheridan, accompanied by the superintendent and staff and the board of visitors, had passed down the front and up the rear of the battalion, with its well-aligned and rigid ranks, in which he had once stood as a cadet, and had taken his place at the point designated for the reviewing officer, when General Sherman rode up from Cranston's Hotel, located about a mile south of the reservation. Sherman remained in his carriage, which was drawn up in front of the parade ground and directly in rear of the reviewing officer. As the corps passed in common, and subsequently in double time, Sherman stood up and watched, with old-time eagerness and pride, the columns of gray and white until they wheeled into a faultless line, tendered the final salute to the reviewing officer, heard the cadet adjutant announce 'parade is dismissed,' and saw the companies move, to lively music, from the parade ground to the cadet barracks. Then he alighted from the carriage, pushed through the crowd that always fringes the parade ground upon occasions of parade and review, and joined Sheridan and the other officials who still lingered on the ground. When the usual salutations and introductions had been concluded, Sheridan drew Sherman and Childs apart *from the crowd* and said: 'Sherman, Mr.

Childs informs me that he intends to have portraits of you and me painted, to hang beside that of General Grant in the Mess Hall. He proposes to wait until we die, but I insisted that the paintings be made before we die, so we may see how the artist executes us. He has agreed to do this, and I told him he is the one man who can and should do it.'

"General Sherman expressed great gratification at this. 'Childs,' said he, 'that is a good idea. I think it will be admitted, and I can say it without suspicion of egotism, that Grant, Sheridan, and myself were the three central military figures of the war, and I would like that we should go down to posterity together. I like the idea of hanging our portraits in the Mess Hall here, and I agree with Sheridan that the scheme can be better, and with greater propriety, carried out by you than by any other man.'

" 'Well, it is all understood and settled,' said Mr. Childs. 'I have told Sheridan to select his artist, and I now repeat that order to you.'

"When it was publicly announced that Mr. Childs was to have the portraits painted, the two Generals were overrun with letters from artists soliciting the work. In Sheridan's case the applications were so numerous as to become annoying, and upon his request a paragraph was published in the newspapers announcing that he had selected an artist.

It was Mr. Childs's desire to have the two portraits finished in time for the annual commencement in June, 1888, and by his direction I several times urged Sheridan to select an artist and have the work begun. This was not an easy matter for him to do, but he finally succeeded in finding an artist in New York with whom he partially arranged to paint his portrait. In the meantime he sent to Mr. Childs a large photograph, taken about the time he left Chicago to succeed Sherman in command of the army. It shows Sheridan in the full uniform of his rank, and was his favorite picture. Supposing, upon receipt of the photograph, that the General intended that he should select an artist, Mr. Childs commissioned Mrs. Darragh to paint the portrait, and she proceeded with the preliminary work, using the photograph referred to. Sometime thereafter I received a letter from Mr. Childs informing me that Mrs. Darragh would visit Washington to consult General Sheridan about giving her 'sittings,' and requesting me to arrange with the General for an interview. He was very much displeased upon being informed of the selection of Mrs. Darragh, and declared, with an exhibition of temper, that he would not see her. He did not believe a woman could paint a man's portrait. Finally he cooled down and said the woman should have a fair chance. Upon her arrival in Washington I accompanied Mrs. Darragh to

the War Department and presented her to the General. The lady went to the Department with fear and trembling. She had been informed that Sheridan was not pleased with her selection, that he was a choleric, ill-mannered man, and she therefore imagined that he would be frigid, turbulent, and disagreeable. I assured the lady that she had received a wrong impression about Sheridan—that he was quiet and gentlemanly in deportment, and that she would be given a kind reception and respectful hearing. It was plain, however, that she was not impressed with my estimate of the General, and entered his office with nervous apprehension which she vainly strove to conceal. The General received Mrs. Darragh with the utmost kindness. A cadet of the first class could not have exhibited greater suavity. The lady was made to feel at perfect ease. After considerable talk about the work in hand, Sheridan said to Mrs. Darragh: ‘I have an idea you artists get your own individuality into your work. I have been painted by artists of several nationalities, but never by a woman. The Italian artist made me look like a brigand; the Frenchman made me resemble Napoleon, between whom and myself there is no physical resemblance, except, perhaps, in height; the Spaniard made me look like two or three Mexican generals whom I have met. Now, madame,’ he continued, with a twinkle in his eye, and a

smile that illuminated his bronzed features, 'I am confident you will make a good picture, but I beg you will not make me look like a woman.'

"Mrs. Darragh brought her canvas to Washington, where the General gave her several sittings. He saw the portrait completed in every detail except the sabre, and was well pleased with it. A few weeks prior to his fatal sickness he sent for me, and after a general talk about the portrait, which I had recently seen while visiting Philadelphia, said he desired to have the old sabre which he carried through the war painted in the picture, and he related to me its history. The scabbard is covered on both sides with the names of the engagements in which the General participated, and their dates. The original scabbard, however, had to be discarded during the war on account of injuries received in action. It had been struck several times by musket balls and bruised in three or four places by being kicked or trampled by horses. Finally a new scabbard had to be procured, and this shows signs of hard usage. I had the sabre forwarded to Mr. Childs. After he was struck down by disease, and before his removal from Washington to Nonquitt, the General sent me an inquiry about the sabre and received the assurance that it was in Mr. Childs's possession *and* would be carefully guarded. Its next *and final* duty was to rest on Sheridan's

coffin. After his death the artist changed the uniform in the portrait from that of Lieutenant-General to that of General, to which rank he succeeded by act of Congress while on his death-bed.

“The same artist was selected to paint General Sherman, but before it was finished members of the General’s family expressed a desire to have the portrait made to represent him as he looked fifteen years ago. The General yielded to this desire, and the artist changed the face, using for a guide the portrait of Sherman by Huntington, painted in 1874, which now hangs in the War Department, and which General Sherman regards as the best portrait ever made of him, in which judgment Mrs. Sherman and the family concurred.”

From the New York Sun, Feb. 14, 1888 :—

THE WEST POINT “REPORT.”

“WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The Military Academy Appropriation bill is expected to go through both Houses this year without opposition, and possibly even without discussion, unless with a view to giving some members an opportunity to pay a compliment like that which was so pleasantly introduced by General Wheeler recently, when he presented to the House the report of the Board of Visitors for the past year. The dista-

guished Alabama cavalryman and Congressman is a graduate of West Point, a soldier of renown, and qualified to discuss with professional intelligence the important subject-matter of the report, which is that of military science and education. Nevertheless, representing no doubt the judgment of his colleagues on the Board of Visitors, as well as his own, he committed the fortunes of the report exclusively to the weight it would carry as the utterances of Mr. George W. Childs, the President of the visiting body. General Wheeler's address, as reported in full in the Congressional Record, was as follows :—

“ ‘Mr. Speaker, in presenting the report of the President of the Board of Visitors to the Military Academy, I desire to ask present action on the resolution which I send to the Clerk's desk.

“ ‘The high character of the distinguished President of the Board must add much weight to the suggestions contained in the report.

“ ‘They are made by a man whose philanthropic generosity is not limited by the boundaries of municipalities, States, sections, or peoples, but extends beyond oceans, to races foreign to us in language, customs, and ideas ; a man whose purpose in life is to do good to mankind, and to help the weak and *the lowly*.

“ ‘The recommendations of such a man upon the subject treated of in the report cannot be too widely disseminated.’

“On examination the report, which is now distributed to the public, is really found to be signed not only by Mr. Childs as President, but by General Wheeler, as Vice-President, by W. A. Courtney, Secretary, and by eight other gentlemen, beginning with General R. H. Anderson, of Georgia, and ending with the Hon. Ben. Butterworth, of Ohio. There is also a minority report signed by Mr. George H. Bates, of Delaware. It is further observable that the plural verb is always used with the word Board as a subject in the main report, in such phrases as ‘the Board are,’ ‘the Board think,’ ‘the Board feel,’ and so on. This does not appear to be a mere extension of the editorial we; yet, as will be seen by the speech of General Wheeler, that gentleman preferred to efface not only himself, but all his colleagues, and to present the report as that of President Childs. It is doubtful, also, whether any preceding instance could be quoted of so direct and high a compliment as his, accompanying any similar occasion of presenting an annual report of a Board of Visitors.

“The resolution submitted by General Wheeler was for the printing of the usual 5000 extra copies of the report, but it was accompanied with the unusual proposal to

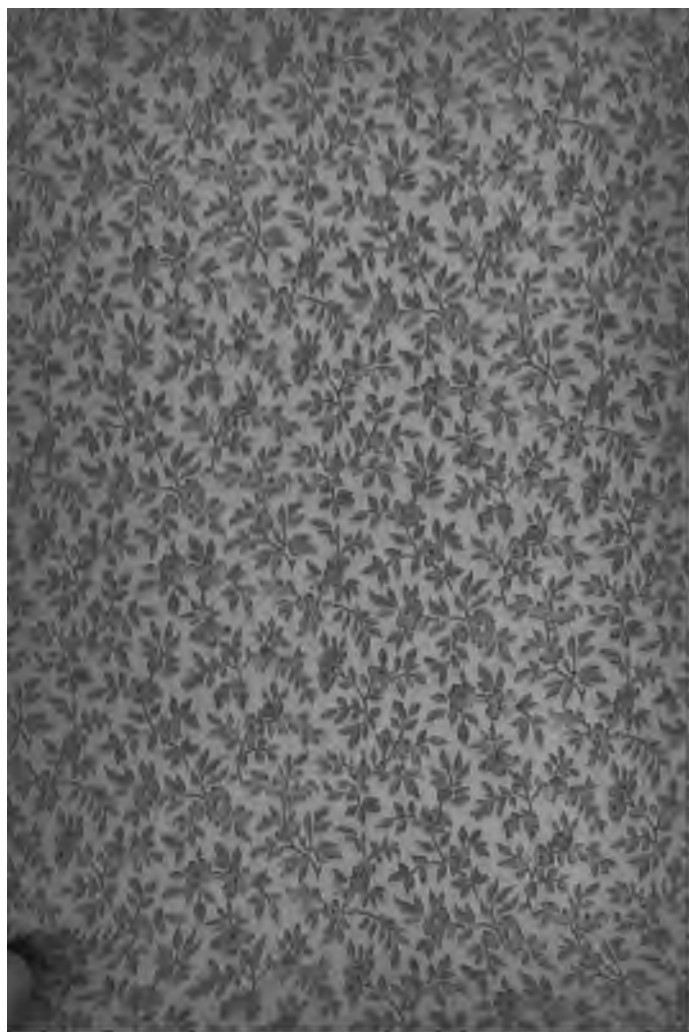
consider the resolution at once, instead of referring it to the Committee on Printing. General Wheeler politely pointed out that there was a peculiar reason for departing, on this occasion, from the ordinary course :

“ ‘It is not often that we have reports from a gentleman like Mr. George W. Childs, whose grand sympathetic heart and bank account are always turned to the same music ; but as the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. Blount] insists that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Printing, and as the Chairman of that committee assures me it shall be reported back very promptly, I will interpose no objection.’

“ The House Committee on Military Affairs adopted without a moment’s hesitation or a single change the report prepared by the sub-committee for the Military Academy, which exceeds that of last year, items being introduced for improving the wharf and building a new laundry. Probably still larger appropriations might have been secured under the general good-will felt for President Childs, as expressed by General Wheeler.

“ The annual report of the Board is an unusually full and elaborate document, comprising 133 printed pages, and rather a gala affair is made of it by the innovation of some full-page illustrations of landscape and interior views at West Point.”





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